

Bahrain seeks Lebanon's help

BEIRUT (AFP) — A Bahraini minister said here Friday that he had discussed with Lebanese authorities the issue of alleged Hizbollah training of militants in his country. "We asked for the cooperation of the Lebanese authorities on this question," Bahrain's Education Minister Abdul Aziz Ben Mohammad Al Fadhl said after talks with Foreign Minister Fares Bouez. Mr. Fadhl arrived earlier the same day with a message from the emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, for President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Bahrain accused Iran on June 3 of working to topple its government by financing a militant group called Hizbollah-Bahrain, with both Tehran and the Iranian-backed Shiite group Hizbollah in Lebanon providing training. Iran has denied the charges. Bahraini Interior Minister Mohammad Ben Khalifa Al Khalifa, quoted by the Arab daily Al-Ahram on Friday, called for Lebanese authorities "to follow this affair, taking into account our historical links and reciprocal interests." The emirate has not reopened its embassy in Beirut since the end of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, unlike most other Arab countries.

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YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Israelis continue to build settlers' road

BEIT SAHUR (AFP) — Construction workers guarded by Israeli soldiers resumed work Friday on a new road linking East Jerusalem to a new West Bank settlement, after it was held up by Palestinian protests. Three bulldozers ploughed up land near the Palestinian village of Beit Sahur near Bethlehem, south of Jerusalem, after the army declared it a closed military zone to prevent further demonstrations. Work had been suspended for several days after villagers staged sit-down protests in front of bulldozers and replanted trees torn down by the construction workers. The new road is to link the East Jerusalem district of Gilo to a new Jewish settlement called Har-Homa four kilometres to the south in the West Bank. Around 6,500 new homes are to be built on 185 hectares of land at Har-Homa under a project approved by the outgoing Labour government of Shimon Peres in March. Palestinians say 150 hectares of Palestinian land has been seized to build the road.

Iraq raises issue of own missing from war

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Iraq raised its own issue of missing persons from the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis at a meeting with Kuwait in Geneva, the official news agency KUNA reported. The head of Kuwait's committee for its missing and prisoners told KUNA that Thursday's meeting was "not easy because Iraq tried to deviate the discussions... by raising the question of so-called missing Iraqis." Sheikh Salem Al Sabah added: "But the united stand of the countries of the anti-Iraq coalition and Saudi Arabia managed to bring the talks back on course and the question of Kuwaiti prisoners will again be top priority." The Geneva talks were the latest in a series of meetings sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross between Iraqi, Kuwaiti, U.S., British, French and Saudi delegates. KUNA said the next session would be held in October. Apart from the Geneva talks, representatives of the six countries also meet regularly on the Kuwait-Iraq border.

Indian executed in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — An Indian convicted of the murder of a Saudi national was executed Friday in the Riyadh region, the Saudi Interior Ministry said. Maravakathu Moideen Kutty Hassan, found guilty of strangling Abdullah Ben Sahl Al Sabi and then stealing his money, was decapitated with a sword, and the ministry's statement quoted by the official Saudi News Agency (SPA). It was the eighth execution since the start of the year announced by Saudi Arabia. Public executions of those convicted of murder, rape, armed robbery or drug trafficking usually take place after weekly Friday prayers. In 1995 official statistics showed a record 186 people were executed in the kingdom.

Israelis hold Lebanese journalists

BEIRUT (AFP) — Agency France-Presse correspondent in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon has been taken to Israel for questioning, an informed source said Friday. Ali Diya, who also works for Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's private television station Future Television and the daily Al-Safir newspaper, was summoned by the security services controlling the zone on Thursday, he said. Mr. Diya has not been seen since responding to the order, and he "has been taken somewhere in Israel for interrogation," the source added.

King's Washington talks described as most fruitful

HM, Clinton reaffirm commitment to seeking peace, say Netanyahu should be given chance U.S. said ready to discuss increased aid for Jordan

By Caroline Faraj with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Information Minister Marwan Muasher on Friday described His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the United States and his meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior administration officials as "one of the most successful visits."

In a telephone interview, Mr. Muasher said all U.S. administration officials and congressmen voiced their admiration and appreciation of King Hussein for his unique way of dealing with regional issues.

King Hussein on Thursday held a closed-door meeting with President Clinton at the White House, followed by another meeting attended by members of the Jordanian delegation accompanying the King as well as senior U.S. officials.

The two leaders discussed the Middle East peace process and the latest developments in the region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The two stressed the need to pursue and support the peace process until a just, comprehensive and lasting peace is achieved, Petra added. The agency said the two leaders discussed results of the latest Israeli elections which brought Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu to power, and stressed the need to wait and not to rush judgements that might create an atmosphere of anxiety and fear, which will in turn leave negative impact on the peace process.

President Clinton and King Hussein also discussed the Arab summit to be held in Cairo on June 21-23 and expressed hope that it will come up with positive results set to push the peace process forward.

Dr. Muasher said that senior U.S. officials expressed admiration of Jordan's policy in dealing with Israel as a state, rather than a party, and its decision not to adopt

any political position until the picture of the new Israeli government becomes clear.

The two leaders also discussed bilateral relations and the need to further enhance them in all fields.

President Clinton reiterated the U.S. support for Jordan and the U.S. administration's commitment to meet Jordan's economic and defence needs, Petra said.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al-Kabari, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary and members of the Jordanian delegation accompanying the King. On the American side the meeting was attended by the U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and senior officials.

Dr. Muasher said the Jordanian delegation had a thorough discussion with senior U.S. officials on Jordan's economic and defence needs.

American officials expressed readiness to discuss boosting economic support for Jordan, he said.

Dr. Muasher said King Hussein also met the heads of 13 large U.S. companies, some of whom had already set up investment projects in Jordan.

U.S. investors demonstrated a desire and willingness to embark on investments in Jordan, Dr. Muasher said.

On Jordan's defence needs, Dr. Muasher said the U.S. administration demonstrated its resolve to provide Jordan with F-16s, adding that Jordan would be receiving these fighter planes soon. Dr. Muasher said that the U.S. and Jordanian sides agreed on a set of practical steps to follow up on points that have been discussed during the official meetings. A

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(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein talks to the press as U.S. President Bill Clinton and Jordanian and American officials look on after a meeting at the White House on Thursday (Reuters photo)

Crown Prince begins visit to Canada today; focus is on project financing

AMMAN (J.T.I.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday starts an official visit to Canada during which he will hold talks with senior Canadian officials on financing Jordanian development projects estimated to cost more than 25 million Canadian dollars, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Prince Hassan's talks with senior Canadian officials will focus on the role of the Canadian government in financing seven development projects, including management of range land, the Amman Financial Market, the environment, specifications and metrology, women's development and telecommunications, in addition to supporting Jordan's balance of payments.

The Canadian government last year provided 18 million Canadian dollars to support Jordan's balance of payments.

The Jordanian government is seeking a 15 million Canadian dollars as contribution to cover the deficit in the balance of payments.

The Canadian government's financial support to Jordan over the past nine years amounted to 110 million Canadian dollars, according to Petra.

Prince Hassan, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, left for Canada on Thursday, beginning a several-day working visit, during which he will also discuss means of boosting bilateral ties as well as a host of regional and international issues of mutual concern.

Last Wednesday Prince Hassan was quoted as saying that his visit to Canada will also provide an opportunity to discuss with Canadian officials direct Canadian aid to the Palestinian refugees.

Prince Hassan, who made the statement upon inaugurating a Canadian-funded school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Sukhneh, said concern for the refugees, particularly those with no identity, has been dwindling recently as the international diplomacy was beginning to ignore the question of compensation for the repatriation of the Palestinian refugees to their homeland.

Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath were seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Royal family members and senior officials.

Prince Mohammad was sworn in as Regent before Crown Prince Hassan's departure.

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Egypt: Arabs not seeking confrontation with Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Arab World is concerned about the election of hardliner Benjamin Netanyahu as Israeli prime minister but does not seek confrontation with the Jewish state, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said in an interview Friday.

Mr. Musa said there was "not panic, but rather concern" among Arabs regarding Mr. Netanyahu's stated opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state and commitment to hold onto the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in 1967.

"All this does not sound encouraging," Mr. Musa was quoted by the Yedioth Achronot daily as saying. "Any attempt to deny the Palestinians their right to self-determination will turn on a red warning light."

Mr. Musa tried to ease Israeli concerns that the Arab summit planned for June 21-

23 in Cairo signals the reestablishment of a pan-Arab coalition against Israel.

It is the first time in years that Syria, which has criticised Arab countries for making peace with Israel, been agreed to an Arab summit.

Syrian newspapers have reported that Syria will demand that the Arab World end its normalisation with Israel.

Since the 1993 Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement, Jordan has made peace with Israel and several Arab states have established lower-level ties with the Jewish state. Egypt made peace with Israel in 1979.

"Nobody intends to freeze relations with Israel," Mr. Musa said. "None of us want to revert to the situation of confrontation. Nobody wants to bring back the tension into the region."

"The fact that you don't like to see Arabs meeting is not a reason for us not to meet," he added. "You have no reason for concern."

"You'll have to get used to the fact that there are meetings in the Arab World, on the issues of peace and stability."

"And if you work on these issues, there is no reason to be worried. But if Netanyahu plans to say 'no' to territory, 'no' to negotiations on Jerusalem and 'no' to the Golan, don't come to us with complaints," he said.

Arab states have urged Mr. Netanyahu, who narrowly defeated Prime Minister Shimon Peres in May 29 national elections, to continue regional peace moves or face isolation and violence.

Mr. Netanyahu, who plans to present his government when Israel's parliament convenes on Monday, has said Arab threats will not force Israel into making political concessions.

"We are not affected by [Continued on page 7]

Ciller and Erbakan in talks on coalition

ANKARA (AFP) — A first round of coalition talks between Islamist leader Necmettin Erbakan and former Premier Tansu Ciller failed Friday as the two could not agree on who would become prime minister.

"We will evaluate Mr. Erbakan's proposals for a coalition," Ms. Ciller said in a brief news conference after a close to three-hour meeting with Mr. Erbakan.

She did not elaborate on the nature of Mr. Erbakan's proposals.

Mr. Erbakan, leader of the pro-Islamic Welfare Party, told reporters that Ms. Ciller's conservative True Path Party would give its formal reply to his proposals on Thursday.

One political source said talks between the two leaders were "locked up on who will become prime minister."

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3 children, guerrilla killed in S. Lebanon

RASHAYA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Three children were killed Friday when a bomb, apparently planted by guerrillas, exploded in the Israeli-occupied enclave of South Lebanon, security sources reported.

A Hizbollah guerrilla was killed earlier in a clash with militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), they said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the explosion occurred at 5 p.m. (1400 GMT) near the village of Houla in the central sector of the enclave, which Israel calls its "security zone."

The sources said they had no immediate details about the bomb blast, the victims or whether guerrillas were involved. However, Hizbollah regularly ambushes Israeli and SLA patrols with roadside bombs inside the enclave.

Attacks on civilians by both sides in South Lebanon have been prohibited by a U.S.-brokered ceasefire that

halted a 16-day Israeli bombing blitz against Hizbollah in April.

Israel says that onslaught was provoked by guerrilla rocket attacks on its northern towns, while the guerrillas say were responding to Israeli attacks on civilians.

At least 200 people were killed, most of them Lebanese civilians, in the Israeli offensive.

Hizbollah is fighting to drive the Israelis out of the occupied enclave.

The group said earlier Friday that one of its guerrillas was killed in a pre-dawn clash with the SLA near the village of Toumat Niha on the edge of the enclave.

A Hizbollah official claimed the guerrillas inflicted "a number of casualties" on the SLA in a 30-minute clash with machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

The SLA's Voice of the South radio reported the

Israelis favour withdrawal from Hebron, survey shows

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Most Israelis expect Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu to fulfil the outgoing government's promise to withdraw troops from parts of the West Bank city of Hebron, an opinion poll showed on Friday.

Fifty-seven per cent of the 502 Israelis surveyed by the Dahaf Institute for the Yedioth Achronot newspaper said the new government must carry out the redeployment, 38 per cent said it must not and five per cent did not respond.

In Hebron itself on Friday, Palestinians hurled stones and a firebomb at Israeli soldiers who gave chase, smashing a storefront, overturning vegetable stalls, forcing merchants to close and detaining Palestinians, witnesses said.

He hopes to forge a coalition by Monday.

Outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres delayed the pull-back, originally scheduled for March 28, after suicide bombers killed 59 people in Israel in February and March. He has left to

There were no reports of any injuries.

Hebron is the last of seven West Bank cities set for a self-rule peace deal with the outgoing government's promise to withdraw troops from parts of the West Bank city of Hebron, an opinion poll showed on Friday.

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Mr. Netanyahu the final decision on whether to go ahead.

Soldiers will remain in Hebron to protect 400 Jewish settlers who live in enclaves among 120,000 Palestinians.

The opinion poll, which had a four per cent margin of error, showed that 57 per cent believed Israel need not withdraw from South Lebanon where five soldiers were killed by guerrillas this week.

Israeli troops and their Lebanese militia allies occupy an anti-guerrilla "security zone" in South Lebanon.

A leading aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat warned Friday that there will be "no peace" unless Mr. Netanyahu honours the outgoing government's pledge to withdraw troops from Hebron.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali expressed hope Friday that Israel's refusal to admit U.N. weapons inspectors to sensitive military sites would not delay the implementation of the recently concluded oil-for-food deal.

Meanwhile, the Security Council debated a response to Iraq's defiance in barring weapons inspectors from five sites despite numerous U.N. resolutions giving them access to any location where they believe illegal weapons are stored.

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'Voice of Love' draws listeners in West Bank

RAMALLAH (AFP) — Forget Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat. In Ramallah, the West Bank's commercial capital, it is time for love and peace, says a pioneer Palestinian radio station which shuns politics and is livening up the airwaves with an upbeat message to young Palestinians.

"Our programmes are to make people relax and smile," says Moutaz Bseiso, 30, owner of the Voice of Love and Peace (VoLP).

"We cover, even on news, and there is no politics whatsoever," Mr. Bseiso declares proudly.

Broadcasting at 95.3 FM on a weak signal that penetrates the Ramallah self-rule area but does not get far beyond, VoLP was shut down by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) for two days last week on the grounds that it lacked the proper licence.

But the radio apparently has strong backing from Ramallah's PNA governor, Mustafa Lufawi, and other PNA officials who helped straighten out the paper work so the beat could go on.

Love and peace is the first private Palestinian radio station, and its launch comes two years after the PNA headed by Yasser Arafat arrived in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and launched its official Voice of Palestine (VOP) radio.

The VoLP pitches a mixture of Arabic and Western music, with dedications, call-ins, puzzles and contests — much of it in a distinctive local dialect which combines Palestinian Arabic with American slang.

The approach contrasts with VOP's emphasis on news, interviews and political commentaries that invariably aim to present the authority's positions and mobilise support for them.

"The new station is a local thing, we are not afraid of it," said Bassem Abu Somaya, director-general of radio for the official

Palestine Broadcasting Corporation.

"I think different people would be listening to it. They are talking to the youth and it's not a problem for us," he said.

The other main radio offerings for West Bank music listeners are Radio Jordan's English language pop station and Israeli broadcasts.

The new station hares from shops and restaurants in Ramallah, which since the end of the 1987-93 intifada against Israel has increasingly become a nightlife hub in addition to a banking and business centre.

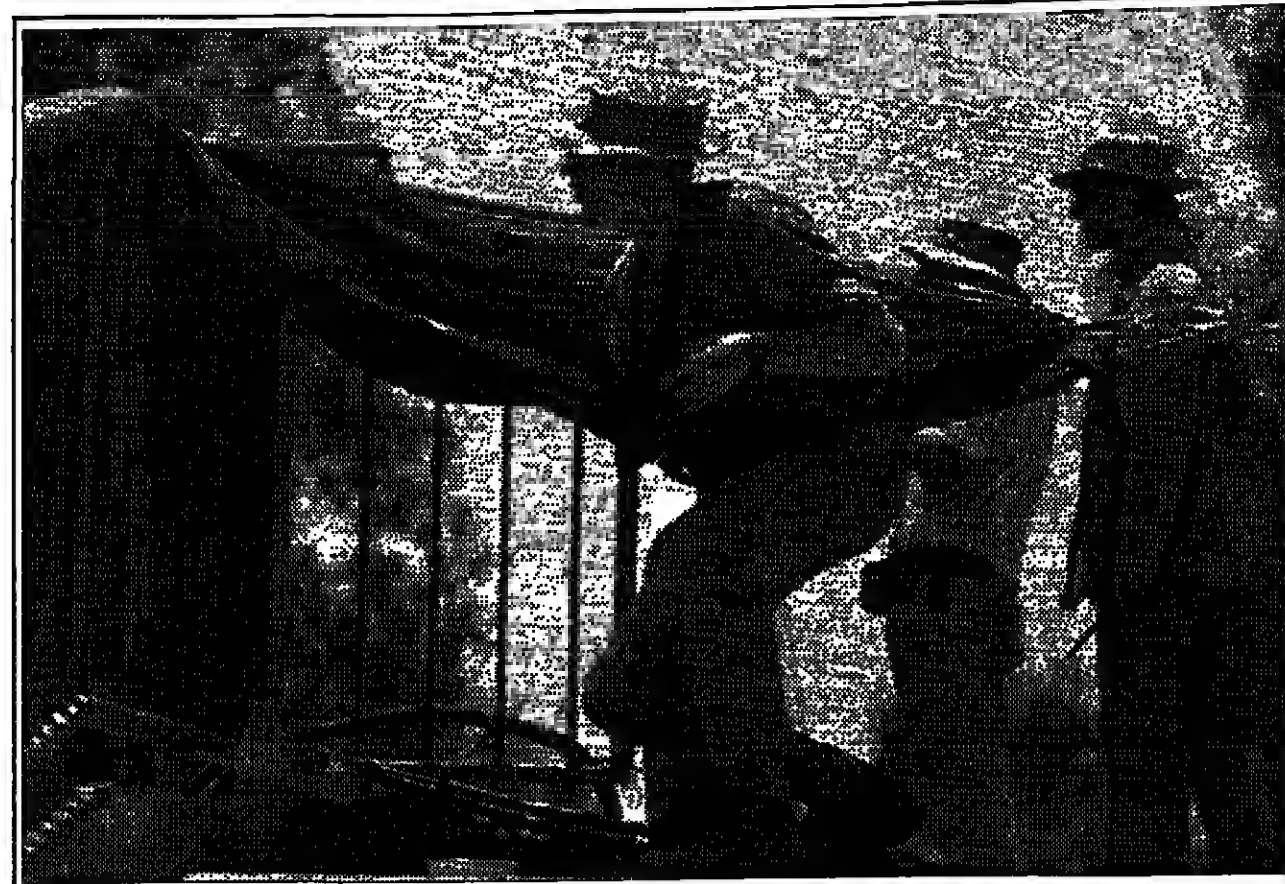
Its restaurants, pubs and discos are enjoyed by wealthier residents but remain out of reach — and even conception — to poorer ones.

"It seems that people are listening, especially the younger generation who are still in the age of love," said Ghassan Khatib, director of the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre. The station made its first appearance on the airwaves last year, but was shut down after two months by Israeli military authorities who controlled Ramallah until the entry of Palestinian security forces in December.

"We can go home at 2:30 in the morning and not be stopped by soldiers and the situation is a lot better than it was, with no comparison," Mr. Bseiso said.

But Ramadan Safi, a former candidate for the Palestinian legislative council who lives in the Amari refugee camp next to Ramallah, says the station has not caught on there.

"The number of listeners among the upper class and also the middle class is growing," Mr. Safi said. "It is a lovely station." "But people in the camp don't listen to it."



STAND-OFF IN IRAQ: United Nations arms inspectors monitor the entrance of a Republican Guard facility in Baghdad on Friday. Iraq meanwhile proposed to the U.N. a compromise to allow the arms inspectors immediate access to sites it deems vital to its national security (see page nine)

Iranian Kurd refugees flee to northern Iraq

SULAYMANIYEH, Iraq (AFP) — Some 150 Iranian Kurdish refugees, mostly women and children, have fled to Kurdish-held northern Iraq from a camp west of Baghdad set up in 1981 during the war against Iran.

"We ran away from the camp because there was hardly any water, food or health care," explained Ali Mohammad Aziz here on Thursday.

"We are 30 families altogether" from Al Tash camp in Ramadi, western Iraq, he said.

"I spent over 10 years in that camp and I couldn't stand it anymore," said another man, 35-year-old Sabrah Abdul Karim Saeed Murad.

The group has been split up, with only some of them offered dilapidated houses by Iraqi Kurdish villagers. Many have sought shelter in abandoned poultry sheds and are seeking help from relief organisations.

The refugees travelled by bus to Baghdad and on to the last Iraqi checkpoint before the Kurdish-held regions. They crossed into Sulaymaniyeh province on

June 3.

"The soldiers looted whatever we had and fired in the air to frighten us," said Mr. Murad.

"The Iraqi soldiers took 2,000 dinars, a gold necklace and two rings before letting me cross" to Kirkuk on the Iraqi Kurdish side, complained a 23-year-old woman, Arya Hamed Murad.

The refugees, who expected more of the 4,000 Iranian Kurdish families in Al-Tash to abandon the camp, said they asked in vain for help from Iraqi authorities and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to return to Iran.

But Sultan Khalil, a UNHCR resettlement officer, said their return was not the responsibility of his organisation.

"We have contacted the Iranian government but they refused to allow their return," he said.

The already stretched Kurdish authorities in Sulaymaniyeh have not been able to offer help to the refugees, who fled Iran either because they sided with Iraq during the 1980-1988 conflict because their homes were in the war zone.

Israel reports Turkish deal near completion

TEL AVIV (R) — Financing for Israel aircraft industries (IAI) \$600 million deal to upgrade the Turkish air force's fleet of F-4 Phantom jets is nearly completed, Israeli officials and banking sources said on Thursday.

They denied an Israeli newspaper report that the deal was at risk because Israeli banks had not secured government guarantees for the entire financing.

IAI reached agreement with Turkey in 1995 to upgrade 54 McDonnell Douglas F-4 jets. The deal was a boost for Israel's defence industry and a sign of the strengthening ties between Turkey and the Jewish state, which were weak during decades of Arab-Israeli conflict.

Turkey, however, sought financing for the deal, which state-controlled IAI does not provide.

"We have no idea about difficulties caused by the banks regarding this deal. From our side, namely Bank Hapoalim, we are doing everything to promote this deal," said a spokeswoman at Hapoalim, Israel's largest bank.

The government has agreed to guarantee \$410 million in bank financing. An Israeli official who asked not to be named said this was the full amount requested by IAI.

Completion of the deal now depends on finalising an agreement between Israeli commercial banks and Turkey.

A spokeswoman at Bank Leumi said the guarantees were secured and details of the financing would be completed "in the coming weeks."

"Because of the large sum involved and because IAI does not finance clients and, since it was an important deal for Israel, the banks agreed to provide the financing," an Israeli official said.

The banks, then, sought Israeli government guarantees which have since been agreed, officials said.

The five-year deal to upgrade the fighter bombers will involve installation of advanced avionics systems, including radar and electronic warfare and navigation systems.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Menem, King Hassan hold talks

RABAT (R) — Argentine president Carlos Menem and Moroccan King Hassan held their first formal talks on Thursday hoping to enhance relations between two countries separated by an ocean and a long lapse in direct contacts. Mr. Menem arrived on Wednesday in Morocco for a state visit, the first since diplomatic relations were established between Rabat and Buenos Aires in the year King Hassan was enthroned 35 years ago. The two leaders met for one hour at the Moorish royal palace in Rabat, where the two governments signed accords to boost investments in their respective countries and cooperate in the veterinary fields and in fisheries. Mr. Menem was quoted in the Moroccan media earlier as bemoaning the low level of cooperation between the two countries, which he said were geographically distant but culturally compatible. "As both of us are developing countries, we must find ways to develop an exchange of expertise and goods," Mr. Menem told the newspaper Le Matin du Sahara in an interview on Wednesday.

Israel to move third century mosaic

LOD (AFP) — Israel said Thursday it would move a 1,600-year-old Roman mosaic to make room for the enlargement of a road passing through the town of Lod near Tel Aviv. "This mosaic will be moved to be displayed at either the Israel Museum in Jerusalem or in the town of Lod," said Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein. The mosaic, which covers 180 square meters, dates back to the third or beginning of the fourth century, said archaeologist Myriam Avisar, after its discovery by accident during the road works. "It is unique for its type in Israel and is a rare beauty," Ms. Avisar said, adding that at one time Lod was a very rich Roman town. The animal motifs of the mosaic, which covered the floor of a large Roman villa, are extremely varied and its vibrant colours have survived the passage of time.

Mortar hits Care office in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Three people were killed and four injured after a stray mortar round landed at the Care International office in south Mogadishu, witnesses in the Somali capital said. The round was fired during fighting between United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) supporters of General Mohammed Farah Aided and Osman Hassan Ali "Ato," they said. It was not clear which side had fired the mortar, but both sides accused each other of responsibility. The incident followed an exchange of fire between the factions, which are vying for control of south Mogadishu.

Israelis discover key cell enzyme

REHOVOT, Israel (AFP) — Israeli researchers reported Friday the discovery of a key enzyme involved in the self-destructing of human cells, a find which could help develop treatments for cancer, multiple sclerosis and juvenile diabetes. "We've identified a crucial step in the self-annihilation of cells and may now be able to control this process," said David Wallach of the Weizmann Institute. Human cells self-destruct regularly in a normal process that enables organs to renew and repair themselves. But in certain autoimmune disorders, including multiple sclerosis and juvenile diabetes, this process functions out of control. Mr. Wallach and his researchers found that when these diseases strike, erroneous "self-destruct" messages are sent to the cells, triggering an enzyme, haptised mach, which attacks vital proteins and leads to the breakup of the cell. "The new understanding of the suicide mechanism may make it possible to block it in autoimmune disorders," the institute said in a statement. "In addition, the new finding may help us understand the growth of cancerous tumours in which the cellular suicide mechanisms responsible for maintaining normal growth of tissues are sometimes disturbed," it said.

Islamists go on trial in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt will put 13 more members of the country's biggest Muslim fundamentalist group on trial before a military court Saturday in a move condemned by human rights groups. The trial marks the fourth time Muslim Brotherhood members will face a military court during the government's 18-month campaign against the group, which is outlawed but was long considered too powerful and popular to suppress. The Brotherhood renounced violence in the 1970s in its attempt to bring about Islamic law and was even allowed to enter Egypt's legislative elections in coalition with other political parties. But the government has imprisoned dozens of its members after they were said to be linked to militant organisations involved in a four-year campaign to overthrow Egypt's government. The latest defendants were arrested April 2 and include former members of parliament, union leaders and professors. Three of them were founding members of an Islamic-oriented political group called the centre party, which the government has refused to legalise.

Iraqi art pays heavy price to survive embargo

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi art, once at the forefront of modern Arab culture, is being sold off at give-away prices as painters struggle to survive the U.N. embargo.

"Two thousand five hundred dollars? But that one's bigger and it costs less! I'll give you 500," said an Arab businessman, haggling over prices with a leading painter at his Baghdad studio.

Jamil Hammudi, a founder of modern Iraqi art, explained how painters are coping under the U.N. sanctions since the 1990 invasion

of Kuwait that have crippled the economy.

"A lot of people come to Baghdad just to buy paintings and then re-sell them abroad at a much higher price," he said.

The 72-year-old painter said "a large number of valuable works, and especially paintings by great artists, have gone abroad," despite strict border controls against such trafficking.

"Iraqi artists themselves have fled in large numbers," most of them to Jordan which is one of the few Arab countries still to give

visas to Iraqis, Mr. Hammudi said.

Galleries have multiplied in Iraq "but as purely commercial enterprises."

Mr. Hammudi, who brushed shoulders with the likes of Andre Breton and Jacques Prevert during 25 years spent in Paris, prefers to keep working at his small "home packed with paintings in the Kerrada district."

"It's hard work just finding the paints, brushes and the other things we need," said Mr. Hammudi. "And when you do find them, prices are exorbitant: a

tube of paint costs 3,000 dinars, the monthly salary of a civil servant.

Iraqi artists are also isolated from the outside world and its influences, deprived of foreign art books and reviews. "This embargo that they call economic is also cultural and social," protested Mr. Hammudi.

Maha Kamal who works at an established gallery in a villa in the well-to-do suburb of Mansur said most of her buyers are foreigners. "And more and more artists are going abroad to sell their works."

Painters here sell off their works at a much lower price than what they're

worth because they need the money," he lamented. "Some of them have even abandoned their own style and are doing commercial work on demand, so that rich people, mostly from Gulf countries, can decorate their villas with landscapes and horses."

"I once saw a trader park his truck near where an Iraqi painter was holding an exhibition. He snapped up all the paintings at a low price and loaded them onto the back of his vehicle," Mr. Nassiri recalled.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Mountain
15:30 Pamkari Patch
16:00 Blue Heavens
16:30 Big Brother Jake
17:00 Sports
19:45 The Touchdown
20:00 Sports
22:00 News in English
22:25 The Bird and the Beautiful
23:10 Feature film: "William"

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 Fair
15:25 Sunset Doha
15:36 Dhuhr
16:16 Asr
19:47 Maghreb
21:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625411
Armenian Church Tel. 622626
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772621

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654972
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675601
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614191

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly becoming average with winds north-easterly moderate. In Aquila, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min. Max. temp.

Amman 21 32
Aqaba 23 38
Dera'a 18 36
Jordan Valley 25 38

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 31, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Bassam Kanadseh 759200
Dr. Ramo Mazzawi 894788
Dr. Khalid Al-Jad 601143
Dr. Salim Dababneh 770751
First pharmacy 661012
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637053
Naroukh pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636780
Yacoub pharmacy 648045
Shmeisani pharmacy 637661
Najib pharmacy 847652

IRABO:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281848
Alqub pharmacy 1-1

ZARQA:

Dr. Ali Al Dughmi 911466
Khalifeh pharmacy 988417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 601111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 198
Fire Brigade 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blind Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 601176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 767111
Complaints Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Reports 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 681100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-63204
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-63204

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalifeh Maternity J. Ann 642801/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 609131
University Hospital 848845
Al-Musheir Hospital 6072279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 08-63204. It is subject to change without notice. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone (RJ) 62700.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 Aqaba (RJ)
11:00 Karachi, Doha (RJ)
11:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
11:30 Istanbul (RJ)
12:15 Amman (RJ)
12:15 London, Berlin (RJ)
12:15 Vienna (RJ)
12:15 New York, Amman (RJ)
14:00 Jeddah (RJ)
14:00 Larnaca (RJ)
17:10 Bangkok, Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights

13:00 Rome (AZ)
13:30 Moscow, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00 Vienna (OS)
19:00 Damascus, Dubai (EK)
19:35 Amman (KL)
20:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
21:15 London (BA)
22:35 Larnaca (CY)
22:35 Cairo (MS)
23:35 London (BA)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 Aqaba OIAA — proceeds to Marka airport at 10:00 a.m. (RW)
22:00

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

06:00 Bangkok (RJ)
06:35 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
09:45 Istanbul (RJ)
12:00 Amman (RJ)
12:30 Karachi, Doha (RJ)
12:30 Amman, Chicago (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)
13:15 Cairo (RJ)
13:15 Brussels, Amman (RJ)
14:05 London (RJ)
21:10 Larnaca (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:10 Jeddah (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
01:00 Riyadh, Bahrain (RJ)
04:30 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights

04:00 Athens (OA)
04:00 Rome (AZ)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
16:00 Vienna (OS)
20:00 Doha (EK)
20:45 Kuwait (KL)
23:05 Cairo (MS)
23:35 Paris, Damascus (AF)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

20:30 Amman (OIAA) (RW)

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 8:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper lower price in J.S. per kg.

Apricot 820 100
Apple 700 50
Banana 600 60
Banana (imported) 550 50
Cabbage 70 30
Cauliflower 100 10
Cucumber (large) 100 70
Cucumber (small) 100 100
Garlic 210 140
Lemon 630 450
Marrow (large) 150 100
Marrow (small) 200 100
Mullukhiyah 100 100
Onion (dry) 120 80
Okra 350 200
Orange 600 400
Peas 300 200
Pepper (hot) 300 200
Pepper (sweet) 400 200
Potato 200 100
String Bean 300 100
Tomato 120 70
Water melon 100 70

old talks

King says regional cooperation will help overcome challenges

ISTANBUL (Petra) — Jordan looks with hope and optimism towards regional cooperation in the Middle East region in an era of peace and stability so that, in cooperation with neighbouring countries, it can overcome the many challenges facing its people.

His Majesty King Hussein said in an address to the U.N.-sponsored Habitat II Conference held in Istanbul.

"The whole Middle East region suffers from acute water shortages, rapid population growth and depletion of natural resources as well as exceeding burdens on social and economic infrastructure," said the King in his address, delivered on his behalf by Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Majali who leads Jordan's delegation to the conference.

"Decent housing has been one of our main concerns in Jordan and in the past few decades we were able to secure decent housing and a decent life to the majority of our citizens despite population increases resulting mainly from the forced migrations over the past 50 years," said King Hussein.

"In the past decades, we were able to sharply reduce the infant mortality rates, provided water and electricity to nearly all parts of the country and created decent housing for most people. But this does not mean an end to our problems because the rapid population growth requires more efforts for housing and other services," added King Hussein.

"The Middle East region has been the cradle of civilisations throughout history, but most of its countries nowadays suffer from a meagre resources of water, which is essential for development, and from growing demands on socio-economic services," said the King.

He said "It is hoped that regional cooperation in an atmosphere of comprehensive peace would enable peoples to better utilise their natural resources and provide healthy environment and housing for hundreds of millions living in the region."

"Our efforts towards peace in the Middle East and the conclusion of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty was aimed at reducing human sufferings resulting from the various conflicts and these efforts represent our contributions towards building a better and safer world dominated by peace and cooperation," added the king.

The King said that Jordan "looks with hope that your conference and its recommendations will serve as another major step towards helping the world to provide people with more decent and safer habitat and pave the ground for cooperation among countries of the world to fulfil this objective."

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, which organised the meeting, said in a statement that the conference focused world attention on ways and means of making the world's cities, towns, villages and homes more livable and sustainable.

Jordan's delegation to the June 3-14 meeting presented two papers featuring the Kingdom's experiments in housing projects in the past years.

The U.N. said that the conference offered an opportunity to the delegates to learn from the best practices applied in all parts of the world, saying that almost half of the world's population live in cities and by the year 2025 more than two thirds of the world's population will be major urban areas.

The conference, which was due to conclude official meetings Friday, was expected to issue a declaration Saturday urging governments to launch joint ventures with residents of urban areas to improve cities' administration and consequently pave the way for creative solutions to habitat-related problems.

Queen thanks UNWG for its support of educational programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Queen Rania Al-Yazouni thanked the U.N. Women's Guild in Geneva (UNWG) for the "generous financial donation" it made to finance a programme that will provide educational packages to 140 low-income children in four under-developed and remote villages in Jordan.

Queen Rania recognised the guild's contribution in a speech to the guild in Geneva delivered on her behalf by Chief Chamberlain HRH Prince Raed Ben Zeid Thursday.

The educational packages, which are administered by the U.N. Women's Guild in Geneva (UNWG) for the "generous financial donation" it made to finance a programme that will provide educational packages to 140 low-income children in four under-developed and remote villages in Jordan.

Queen Rania recognised the guild's contribution in a speech to the guild in Geneva delivered on her behalf by Chief Chamberlain HRH Prince Raed Ben Zeid Thursday.

Two-day workshop to address ways to improve women's centres

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American Centre in Amman will Sunday hold a two-day workshop in support of women's development in Jordan.

The workshop, which will be held at the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Complex for Development, will be conducted by Samira Harfoush-Hradsky, director of Middle East and North Africa Programmes at the Education Development Centre in Washington, DC. Ms. Judy Mueller, executive director, the Women's Centre, Vienna, Virginia and Judge Rosemarie Annunziata, Virginia Court of Appeals. The opening ceremony will be inaugurated by Farah Daghestani, director general, Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre.

The workshop will examine how to strengthen and improve women's centres. Workshop participants will discuss how to advise social service providers and others concerned with women's issues on strategic planning and organisational development. Participants will also look at the types of services that women's resource centres can offer, as well as the importance of fund-raising networking.

The first day of the workshop will focus on development for small enterprises, using women's centres as a case study. The second day will address topics involved in the management and sustainability of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

WHAT'S GOING ON

JAPAN WEEK

* Japanese movie shows entitled "Story From Chikamatsu" and "Taro, the Dragon Boy" respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Broadcasting of Japanese TV programmes and films on Jordan Television.

BRITISH WEEK

* Play: "Bedside Manners" Derik Nimmo Players at the Forte Grand Hotel at 9:00 p.m. (to be preceded by dinner at 7:30 p.m.)

EXHIBITIONS

* "Jordanian International Exhibition for Building and Construction Equipment" at the World Exhibit Centre, University Road, until June 18.

* Works by contemporary Arab artists

JAZZ FESTIVAL

* Performance by Belgian jazz band Grazer Saxophone Quartet at the Amman Amphitheatre at 9:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION

* Presentation about "Flora of Mujib Nature Reserve" by Bensada Abdelkader, Maher Qishawi, and Khalidoun Kiwan at the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature at 2:00 p.m. (Tel. 837931/2).

at Darat Al Fumun, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 30.

* Photography exhibit by American photographer George Vass entitled "Passage Across the Jordan" at the American Centre, until June 23.

* Works by Rafic Majoub at the French Cultural Centre, until June 27.

* Works by Ahmad Nawash at the Jordan Plastic Arts Association, Jabal Weibdeh, (until June 29) (Tel. 623297).

Rawabdeh heads activists delegation to Iraq

By Mervat Surwadeh
Special to The Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government on Friday declined comment on a trip that a delegation headed by former deputy prime minister and parliament member Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh made to Iraq Thursday in what delegation sources have described as a bid to express solidarity with the Iraqi people.

But the government's declared stand on such issues is that the delegation only represents the views of its members — not official policy — and that the government does not interfere with the policies of political parties in the country.

The delegation, which left Thursday morning, included six deputies, representatives of 17 political parties as well as unionists from the engineers, lawyers, doctors and writers associations. Jordan's Women Federation, the Arab Human Rights Organisation and the Federation of Arab Doctors also have representatives in the 80-member team.

Deputy Khalil Haddadin (a Ba'athist) said the visit aims at "reaffirming the Jordanian public stand towards the Iraqi people regardless of any political tensions."

"Relations between the Jordanian and the Iraqi people go beyond any political decisions and we want to reassure our Iraqi brothers of the Jordanian support," Mr. Haddadin said before leaving to Baghdad.

Mr. Haddadin and other delegation members asserted that the "government did not object to the delegation's visit to Baghdad," which is the second to Iraq since the beginning of the year.

"We did not ask the government for permission because this is a public delegation and the government did not intervene," Mr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times.

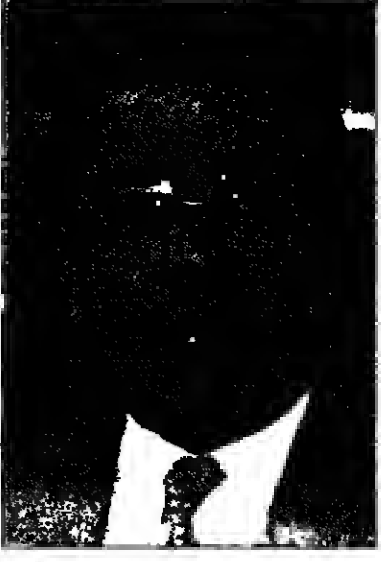
Sa'ed Abu Meizar, president of the Jordan Dentists Association, voiced hope that the visit will help improve Jordanian-Iraqi relations, which soured recently over Jordan's increasing criticism of the Iraqi regime.

"We hope that by interacting with the Iraqi people we will help to restore relations between Iraq and Jordan," said Dr. Abu Meizar whose syndicate is represented in the delegation.

Jordanian-Iraqi relations began to sour in August 1994 after Jordan granted political asylum to Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, Hussein Kamel, who defected to the Kingdom and vowed to topple the Iraqi regime.

General Kamel returned to Baghdad earlier this year after he was promised pardon by the Iraqi regime.

However, he was killed along with members of his family shortly after arriving in Iraq.



Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh

This, coupled with Jordan's increasing criticism of Iraq's policies, triggered a deep rift between the two countries.

Implementation of U.N. resolutions essential for ensuring regional stability — Shakhaneh

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan has called for the implementation of U.N. resolutions including those of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) regarding the Middle East region and the Palestine question as essential factors for ensuring stability.

Delivering Jordan's address to the ILO's 83rd meeting in Geneva, Minister of Labour Abdul Hafiz Shakhaneh said: "Jordan reaffirms that peace and security for the region should be based on equitable and just principles guaranteeing the rights and interests of all its people and based on respect for human rights and democracy."

"The Jordanian government has expressed its condemnation of the violent incidents that took place in our region in the past few months, which had their negative impact on the peace process and expressed deep concern over the continued tension, acts of aggression, the murder of innocent civilians, the closures and siege of (Palestinian) territories and the confiscation of lands as well as expansions and the construction of settlements (in the occupied Palestinian lands) which are reminiscent of the pre-peace era in the region," stressed the minister.

He called for the UN to ensure full commitment to peace treaties and agreements signed by the various parties in the region and for attainment of peace on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks so that peace can be comprehensive.

The minister referred to unemployment and poverty and said that they stem from the fact that most of the countries in the region continue to suffer from heavy foreign debts, saying that these debts have resulted in some forms of terrorism.

"The ILO is called on to help find a way to reduce the volume of debts on these countries either by writing them off or converting them into some kind of investments," he added.

Referring to Jordan, he said "we are working towards modernising our national legislation in a manner that would cater to the new developments and the requirements of the modern age and in a way to ensure better future for our citizens."

"The new labour law in Jordan, which goes into effect on June 15, serves as the best manifestation of our ability to adapt to the socio-economic developments and our determination to become self-reliant and able to attract investments to our country to stem unemployment and poverty," said the minister.

Dr. Shakhaneh praised the relationship between Jordan and the ILO in labour-related areas, expressing hope that more positive steps will be taken towards further cooperation.



Abdul Hafiz Shakhaneh

positive steps will be taken towards further cooperation.

Second Euro-Islam International Conference concludes with a pledge for continued dialogue

Special to the Jordan Times

MAFRAQ — The second Euro-Islam International Conference concluded its deliberations at Al Bayt University Thursday with optimism and hope that the momentum achieved in four days of scholarly presentations and debate would provide venues for further talks and reach out beyond the confines of the conference.

In a wrap-up press conference on Thursday, Al al Bayt University President Mohammad Adnan Bakhit said "If we are unable to reach out to society at large through the media, then all these debates, presentations and deliberations will remain 'ink on paper', and we will have failed in achieving our objectives. It is easier to merely think [about the issues at hand] than to commit ourselves to the [serious] follow-up of what we have initiated. Accordingly, I appeal to all participants and concerned parties to do their utmost in following up on, and implementation of the decisions and recommendations arrived at by the participants."

The conference was inaugurated Monday by former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, deputising for the His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. It started with key speeches from each of the university president, representatives of the Swedish government, the European Union, and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). A plenary session followed, with speeches from scholars and historians in the fields of Islam, Christianity and Muslim-Christian relations.

The remaining three days of the conference, however, featured smaller working groups meeting separately following brief morning plenary sessions. In the closing ceremony chaired by Senator Kamel Abu Jaber, the representatives of the three groups presented their group reports to the floor.

Heading the first group entitled "Understanding and Mutual Images", Sune Persson from Sweden highlighted the necessity for "continued dialogue and the drafting of plans to build confidence and trust between Europe and the Muslim world as well as between Muslims living in Europe and their Christian compatriots."

Papers presented in this group included "Islam and the West: Mutual Mysteries", "Achieving understanding in our educational institutions", "Europe and Islam: Coexistence or Conflict (The Albanian Problem)" and "Looking at Each Other's Artistic Expression as a Means of Promoting Mutual Understanding."

Dr. Persson also called for the need to identify the eruptive issues between Europe and the Islamic world, focusing on democratic issues and human rights. He recommended the establishment of research centres on Christianity in Islamic universities.

Participants in the second group, entitled "The Role of Mass Media, Literature, and Opinion Makers", presented papers entitled: "Western Coverage of Islam", "The Role of the Mass Media", "The chasm between Islam and the West", "Political Obstacles Encountering Euro-Islam Coexistence", "How Best to Improve the Image of Islam", among others.

Chairing this second group was Laura Guazzone from Italy. She called for the necessity for "deep understanding of, and new scholarship on Islamic studies as well as the dismantling of barriers between the Islamic and European civilizations." Dr. Guazzone stressed the role the media should play in providing for "objective dialogue rooted in mutual recognition and understanding, and how modern communications systems such as information networks should be capitalised upon for the dissemination of such principles."

Recognising that the message of interfaith harmony would be lost unless bolstered by the media as well as rendered relevant to the experiences of budding generations, school syllabi and curricula were extensively discussed. Dr. Guazzone emphasised the need for "surveying such syllabi, especially with regard to history and religion classes. The objective here should be the identification and highlighting of common value structures instead of concentration on points of strife, which should then be relayed to the appropriate venues via modern communications systems."

The group, in a bid to encourage related media coverage pledged to set up a prize entitled "Best Reporter Prize For Coverage of Islam-Christianity Dialogue."

The third group, entitled "History and the Future" featured working papers that included the following: "Re-appreciating Muslim Approaches to the World as the Creation of God", "The Approach of the West Toward the Rise of al-Rafah Party in Turkey", and "Muslim Contributions to Western/European Civilization."

The group, chaired by Thomas Lunden of Lund University in Sweden, declared that discussions had been held on "the contribution of Muslim civilisation to humanity and to historical relations between Europe and the Muslim world, as well as the role of religion in mobilising mutual understanding." The group concluded by encouraging further academic deliberations such as the present conference.

Suggested venues for the next Euro-Islamic Conference included Morocco, India and Turkey.

Seminar discusses impact of development on environment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Environment Department has urged the adoption of a general strategy that can incorporate safety of the environment with development plans.

Department Director General Saleh Al Sharee told a one-day seminar held to review environmental issues connected with economic projects that there is a need for legislation that can guarantee the continuation of a balanced ecological system, especially in the Dead Sea area which faces major challenges in the course of implementing future development programmes.

"Concerned parties should conduct a comprehensive environmental study aimed at guaranteeing the protection of the environment in all its forms," added Dr. Sharee at the meeting organised by the Peace and Environment Forum in cooperation with the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

"We call for measures to develop the Dead Sea area but we believe that priority should be for protecting the ecosystem there and the imposition of regulations that would guarantee the safe utilisation of lands to help secure ecological stability," added Dr. Sharee.

He called for geological, topographical and geophysical studies as well as research on plant and animal life around the Dead Sea prior to working out a scientific programme aimed at ensuring efficient management and protection of natural resources and the prevention of pollution and deterioration of the environment.

Khaled Irani, RSCN's director, said there should not be any competition between development and the environment once the environment element is included as a basic component in planning projects.

Participants in the meeting, who came from Egypt, Palestine, Israel as well as Jordan, reviewed issues connected with industry, energy, transport, tourism and water projects in the region.

The Karmandarian Family mourn the loss of Marian's father, Charles McGarel, who passed away on Friday 14th June. May his soul rest in peace. Karmandarian, P.O.Box 5003 Amman. Fax: 791194 McGarel, 29 Garden Walk, Histon, Cambridge CB4 4HH

Yeltsin looks to future successor as he winds up poll campaign

YEKATERINBURG, Russia (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Friday he already had a future successor in mind as he wound up his campaign for Sunday's presidential elections, in which he is tipped to beat Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov.

Speaking in his home city of Yekaterinburg in the Urals, Mr. Yeltsin again called for democrats to unite, saying personal ambitions could be "dangerous for the future."

Mr. Yeltsin, 65, told reporters that he would work well as president for a second term, but for the next elections in 2000, "a president must be prepared whom the people know, whom they like, and he must have a certain authority."

"I know such a person, and if I were that person I would withdraw my candidacy," Mr. Yeltsin said, without explaining which of the nine other candidates in the current elections he viewed as a potential successor.

"Next time he will probably be the next president," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Under the Russian constitution a president can only serve two full terms.

Mr. Yeltsin's political future was thrown into doubt when he suffered two mild heart attacks in July and October last year, but since launching his re-election bid in February he has campaigned vigorously, travelling the length and breadth of Russia.

Mr. Zyuganov is Mr. Yeltsin's main challenger in Sunday's elections, according to opinion polls, which forecast that the two rivals will face each other in a decisive second round runoff in early July.

The latest opinion poll conducted by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Centre (VTSIOM) gave Mr. Yeltsin 36 per cent of the votes and Mr. Zyuganov 24 per cent in the first round of voting set for June 16.

"Unfortunately the democrats are not united," Mr. Yeltsin said Friday in Yekaterinburg, where he announced his candidacy in February.

"Above all it is a matter of personality. Each one has a very high opinion of himself and personal ambitions are playing a role here. That is dangerous for the future," Mr. Yeltsin said.

His comments appeared to be addressed at Grigory Yavlinsky, his main rival in the reformist camp, with whom he held a series of meetings in early May.

Their talks fuelled speculation that Mr. Yavlinsky would withdraw his candidacy to boost Mr. Yeltsin's chances, but Mr. Yeltsin later suggested that Mr. Yavlinsky was overambitious by demanding the post of prime minister.

Mr. Yavlinsky meanwhile ruled out a pre-election pact with Mr. Yeltsin, saying the president was not willing to accept the changes he proposed — the resignation of Prime Minister Viktor

Chernomyrdin, a cessation of hostilities in Chechnya and a paring down of presidential powers.

Mr. Yavlinsky, who is tipped to win nearly 10 per cent of the vote in the first round, also ruled out any prospect of serving in a Yeltsin government.

Mr. Yeltsin has also held private talks with two other moderate candidates — retired General Alexander Lebed and eye surgeon Svyatoslav Fyodorov — who failed to unite with Mr. Yavlinsky to form what observers had dubbed a possible third force.

The Communist victory in December's parliamentary elections was attributed partly to the fragmentation of the democratic movement.

Mr. Zyuganov heads a broad coalition of "national-patriotic" forces, ranging from hardline orthodox Marxists who want to restore the Soviet Union to Socialists who favour a mixed economy.

An unidentified caller telephoned police Friday to warn that a bomb had been placed in the central administration building where President Boris Yeltsin was wrapping up his election campaign, Interfax News Agency reported.

The agency quoted local police as saying security forces had evacuated and sealed off the building, located on the route which Mr. Yeltsin's motorcade was to use.



Two members of OMON, the Interior Ministry's crack forces, carry out a spot check on a car Friday ahead of Sunday's presidential election (Reuter photo)

Security tight as Chechens vote

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Chechens began voting for a regional parliament and a Russian president Friday in elections opposed by rebels who see Chechnya as an independent state.

Rebel forces vowed to block the balloting, which they view as illegal, and a senior official from the Chechen government Election Commission said demonstrations against the balloting were under way in the rebel strongholds of Gudermes and Shali.

But he had no reports of violence in the early voting.

"We have had some threats but so far no violence," Deputy Electoral Commission Chairman Yakob Sabirov told Reuters.

"The other side don't want elections and they are staging protests against them. But so far the voting is proceeding."

In the regional capital Grozny, devastated early in Russia's 18-month-old attempt to crush Chechen independence, armoured personnel carriers swarming with Russian troops roared through the streets, throwing up huge tails of dust in a show of force.

Checkpoints across the territory were reinforced.

A handful of voters filed into Voting Station Number 12 in Grozny when it opened at 8 a.m. (0400 GMT) Friday morning to pick up three ballots offering a welter of candidates.

Two ballots, for the upper and lower houses of a regional Chechen parliament, listed a total of 37 candidates. A third ballot gave the 10 men running for Russian president.

All three had a space where voters could indicate "none of the above." The rest of

Russia chooses a president Sunday.

"The voting is off to a good start and we are just sealing a ballot box to be taken to the homes of people who are too ill to come to the polling station," explained Ahusupien Tankayev, a Chechen worker at Coting Station 12.

"Everyone will have three days to cast their votes so it will all be over on Sunday."

But voters in Grozny are hardly indicative of the mood across the Caucasus region of Chechnya, where rebel forces have threatened violence to disrupt the poll.

The separatists view the Moscow-supported Chechen government headed by Doku Zavgayev as traitors and say its efforts to convene a new Chechen parliament are illegal.

Rebel leaders insist Chechnya is an independent country and say Russian presidential elections have nothing to do with them.

"I'll do everything within my power to make certain that these elections do not take place," rebel commander Aslan Maskhadov told Reuters Wednesday.

"I'm going to stir up the (Chechen) nation to reject these elections. I will consult with the local puppet government and if that doesn't work then something unbelievable will happen."

Many Chechens in Grozny, and especially those in outlying areas, say they will not vote.

Drivers arriving in Grozny from the rebel-dominated southern plains and mountains Friday reported an increase in the number of Russian checkpoints on main highways and said inspections of vehicles and identity cards were stringent.

Publicist denies Cindy Crawford was kidnapped

LOS ANGELES (R) — Cindy Crawford's publicist Thursday denied a British newspaper report that the supermodel was briefly kidnapped in Paris two months ago. "There is no truth whatsoever to reports Cindy was kidnapped," Annette Wolf told Reuters. The Sun, Britain's largest-circulation tabloid, said it had been told of the incident by the model's mother Jenny Crawford, 57, of De Kalb, Illinois. Mrs. Crawford was not immediately available for comment on the report published Thursday. According to the Sun, Crawford stepped off a supersonic Concorde airliner in Paris and was lured into a limousine by a hogan chauffeur who told her her regular driver was sick. The kidnapper sped on to a highway as the weeping model begged to be released, but she escaped when the car ran into a traffic jam and she was able to open a door and flee across seven lanes of traffic, the report said.

Couple to get hitched at terminal velocity

BEIJING (AFP) — One kiss and then a quick pull on the rip-cord will mark the marriage Saturday of a young Beijing couple who plan to tie the knot during a 1,500 metre skydive over the capital. Bridegroom Wang Yongli, 33, and his bride Sheng Jun, 26, — both world champion parachutists with the Beijing skydiving team — will plummet down the aisle at 11:00 a.m. Saturday above the Aviation Museum in the north of the capital, the Xinhua News Agency said Friday. At exactly 1,000 metres, the couple will give each other a high-speed kiss before opening their parachutes and gliding to the ground to embark on married life. The best man and bridesmaids will accompany them on the jump.

George Washington page fetches \$300,000

LONDON (R) — A handwritten page of the speech George Washington planned to make for his inauguration as first president of the United States was sold for \$199,500 (\$306,000) at auction in London Thursday. The buyer, who bid by telephone and helped push the price up to double its estimate, asked to remain anonymous, auctioneers Phillips said. The manuscript page was discovered under a sofa in an old antiques shop in England, by auctioneers who came to value the contents after the owner died. Written on both sides in Washington's own hand, it is said to be the climax of a 62-page speech he had drafted for the ceremony on April 30, 1789. In the end, Washington made only a brief speech, but he had clearly intended a dramatic statement of his vision of America, then a fairly insignificant nation, as a great power which would never again submit to foreign rule.

Shanghai provides insurance for ancient trees

SHANGHAI (R) — A major Chinese insurance company has issued policies for 1,369 old trees in Shanghai to help raise public awareness of the need to look after them, Xinhua News Agency said. Pingan Insurance Co's gesture is the first case of "tree insurance" in China, the agency said. Pingan officials were unavailable for comment. Competition between insurance companies in Shanghai is growing increasingly stiff, and firms are putting increasing effort into publicity. Xinhua said funds were also being raised to establish an ancient tree protection foundation.

Fire destroys black church in Oklahoma

ENID, Oklahoma (R) — In yet another apparent race-related attack, a black church in northern Oklahoma was destroyed Thursday by an intense fire that police believe was set deliberately.

The First Missionary Baptist Church in the small town of Enid about 80 miles (120 kilometres) northwest of Oklahoma City was wrecked. Police and fire chiefs said they suspected arson.

It was the 33rd blaze to hit black churches across the south in the last 18 months, and President Bill Clinton pledged Thursday to stop the arsonists.

"We're going to get to the bottom of every one of these cases and we're going to do everything we can," Mr. Clinton told a news conference in Washington. He also said he is considering "other possible options" for federal action against those who torch black churches, and might announce specifics soon.

The fires have raised fears that a wave of racially motivated violence may be under way, and led Mr. Clinton to visit the site of a burned black church in South Carolina Wednesday. But many black community leaders believe federal investigative efforts have been inadequate.

Thursday's blaze began about 4 a.m. (0900 GMT) and spread rapidly with huge flames swirling 40 feet (13 metres) up through the roof when firefighters arrived minutes later.

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms picked through the rubble of the gutted church Thursday afternoon to search for clues.

Enid Police Chief Jim Hood said accelerant was found at the scene and a window had been smashed from the outside, indicating that someone may have broken into the church. He said arson had not yet been confirmed but was suspected.

Nobody was injured, but the church's roof collapsed and only the fractured brick shell was left standing.

"Most everybody is stunned and shocked. I'm sure there'll be some anger a little later but right now everyone is just shaken," Fire Department spokesman Carl Carroll said.

Officials from the federal government and nine southern states met at FBI Headquarters in Washington Thursday to coordinate the pursuit of those responsible for the burnings.

Apart from the 33 church fires in southern states, investigators are also probing three other cases in New York, New Jersey and Washington state.

In Oklahoma, members of the First Missionary Baptist Church's 200-strong congregation stood looking in disbelief at the building's burned shell throughout Thursday.

"If this fire was set deliberately, then it's the work of a sick person," the Rev. Alfred Baldwin told reporters. He said most of his congregation is black but there are also some native American and Hispanic members.

In Washington, Mr. Clinton launched an emotional appeal to put an end to the arson attacks. "They're not only illegal, they're morally unacceptable and reprehensible and Americans need to stand up against it," he said.

On Wednesday, Mr. Clinton knelt in prayer at the site of the Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Greenville, South Carolina, which was burned to the ground last June.

A church in Charlotte, North Carolina, was destroyed last week and two churches in the northeast Texas town of Greenville were burned overnight Sunday.

"Police in Greenville said Thursday that the white supremacist Klu Klux Klan plans to hold a rally near the town this weekend.

Law enforcement agencies investigating the burnings have made arrests in 10 cases but have so far found no evidence of a conspiracy.

A 13-year-old white girl was arrested Sunday in North Carolina on charges of burning a church in that state and two men with ties to the Klu Klux Klan were charged with setting one of the South Carolina fires after a Klan rally.

Mr. Clinton Thursday invited southern governors to the White House next week to map a strategy aimed at stopping the epidemic of fires that have burned down 36 predominantly black churches.

"I am inviting the governors from all the affected states to come to the White House next week to work together with us to prevent future incidents, to unite our communities, to rebuild the churches that have been burned," Mr. Clinton said.

The invitation was made through the Southern Governors Association to the heads of nine states where 33 of the 36 fires occurred over the last 18 months. A White House official said governors of New York, New Jersey and Washington state, where three other fires took place, would also be welcome.



Sheikh Hasina, whose centrist Awami League won a simple majority in Bangladesh's 300-seat parliamentary elections, flashes a victory sign before reporters at her Dhaka house Thursday. Mrs. Hasina said she would bid to form a new government (Reuter photo)

Hasina to form new Bangladeshi government

DHAKA (AFP) — Sheikh Hasina Wajed began work Friday on forming a new Bangladeshi government following the victory of her party, the Awami League, in general elections declared free and fair by foreign observers.

Although the results from 29 constituencies have yet to be determined, Mrs. Hasina met with her advisers and others to discuss forming a government later this month, party officials said.

With the results declared from 271 of the 300 parliamentary constituencies, the Awami League has won 133 seats to emerge as the largest single party and needs 18 more for an absolute majority.

Twenty-nine constituencies have yet to be decided. Repolling will be held in 27 of them on June 19 following irregularities in Wednesday's general elections, while the results in the two other constituencies were held up on legal grounds.

An observer team from the U.S.-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) endorsed the election results but criticised incidents of intimidation of minority Hindu voters in some areas.

"This was unambiguously an honest, free and fair election," former U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz said.

He called on political par-

ties to "accept their stunts as members of the opposition with grace and dignity" and for the winners to be "magnanimous and reconciliatory."

Reacting to remarks published in newspapers Friday in which Mrs. Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) said there had been gross rigging, Mr. Solarz said: "I don't know what election they are talking about. The one we saw was free and fair."

The BNP's deputy leader, Badruddoza Chowdhury, Thursday said the party had complained to the Election Commission about alleged fraud in 111 constituencies and demanded repolling there.

Mrs. Hasina, 49, is expected to be chosen by newly elected Awami League MPs as leader of the party's parliamentary group in next few days, clearing her way to be Muslim Bangladesh's second woman prime minister succeeding her arch-rival Mrs. Khaleda Zia, party sources said.

Mrs. Khaleda's BNP had the second-largest number of seats with 104, followed by the Jatiya Party (JP) of jailed military dictator Hussain Mohammad Ershad with 29. The fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami had two seats and three others were won by two small parties and an independent.

A record 73 per cent of voters turned out in Wednesday's election.

40 Rwandan Hutus injured in Burundi grenade attack

BUJUMBURA (AFP) — Some 40 people were injured in a grenade attack on a Rwandan refugee camp in northern Burundi, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said here Friday.

The head of the UNHCR delegation here, Hitoshi Misa, said the grenade was hurled from outside the Rukuramigabo Camp Thursday, landing in a crowd of people queuing up for food-rations.

Four people were seriously wounded and had to be taken to a nearby hospital.

An official investigation is being carried out with the help of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, responsible for food-distribution in the camp.

The Rukuramigabo Camp, close to the Rwandan border, holds 12,800 Rwandan Hutu refugees.

"Maybe this is a one-off incident, we don't know," said Mr. Misa, adding that the surrounding region in the northern tip of Burundi has been calm lately.

Three staffers for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were murdered 10 days ago in an ambush in northeast Burundi, in the troubled region of Cibitoke.

The ICRC withdrew its last 10 aid workers in Burundi, while U.N. agencies also staged a 24-hour suspension of their activities in the country to protest the killing.

Burundi has been wracked by inter-ethnic violence in the last two and a half years that

has claimed thousands of lives.

Despite this, close to 100,000 Rwandan Hutus remain in northern Burundi, after fleeing the genocide in their own country in 1994 in which more than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed.

On Thursday, Burundi's army said it killed 50 Hutu rebels in an attack on a training camp and an army report blamed rebels for killing three Swiss aid workers.

"With the help of the local population, 50 rebels were killed in an operation at Mugere south of the capital. It was a rebel training camp we identified and attacked (Wednesday)," army Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Bosco Daradagwe told Reuters.

"Parts of the population had fled, which made it easier for us to operate, especially as we had the help of local people."

More than 150,000 people have been killed since 1993 in Burundi, where the Tutsi-dominated army has lost ground this year to Hutu rebels who control large parts of the countryside.

Pressure for foreign intervention in Burundi is mounting in response to massacres blamed on both the rebels and the army.

Col. Daradagwe said the army was no more worried than usual about attacks but the biggest threat was from Zaire where rebels, former Rwandan troops and militiamen were conspiring closely.



Passengers of an Indonesian Garuda airliner flee from the DC-10 plane engulfed in flames after an aborted take-off from Fukuoka Airport in southern Japan Thursday. This picture was taken by Garuda passenger Minoru Matsuda (Reuters photo)

Engine failure suspected in Garuda crash in Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese police and transport officials Friday were suggesting engine failure could be the cause of the crash of a Garuda Indonesia Airways jet at Fukuoka Airport the day before, news reports said.

They were also questioning the plane's Indonesian pilot and crew to determine if there was any criminal negligence on their part, amid criticisms from many passengers that they were not properly led out from the burning DC10, the reports said.

The aircraft carrying 275 people overshot the runway and caught fire immediately after takeoff at noon on a flight to Jakarta via the resort island of Bali, killing three Japanese passengers and injuring 108 others.

Jiji Press reported that the pilot, 38-year-old Ronald Longdong, was quoted as saying after he was rescued that he had tried to halt the plane's takeoff as the engine under the right wing developed trouble.

"But the plane overran as its speed was so fast," he said. The investigators were also concerned about a gaping hole found in the casing of the engine at the rear wing, the reports said.

A spokesman for the Joint Committee of Police and Transport Ministry investigators could not immediately confirm the reports.

The McDonnell Douglas plane has three engines made by General Electric Co. of the United States.

A team of six U.S. officials were to arrive Saturday to join in the investigations, the Transport Ministry said. They were from the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Aviation Administration, General Electric Co. and McDonnell Douglas.

Garuda President Supandi and Sikado, head of the Indonesian Transport Ministry's Aviation Department, arrived Friday in Osaka on the main island of Honshu and took a super-express train to Fukuoka on the southern island of Kyushu.

The airport was reopened for traffic later, more than 24 hours after the accident.

Mr. Sikado told reporters that he had been informed that there was trouble with the engine on the right wing.

Mr. Supandi told reporters he hoped to visit the injured at hospitals and will do his best to compensate.

At a news conference late Thursday, the plane's chief pursuer Chanfan Hiyam, 43, said that he heard a sound like heavy rain falling in an engine after the plane started taxiing.

Mr. Hiyam admitted that when people tried to escape the plane in-flight announcements were made only in English and Indonesian, and not in Japanese. One crew member, however, was able to call out instructions in Japanese, he said.

Of the 260 passengers, 256 were Japanese and two Indonesians. There were also two ethnic Koreans living in Japan with one of them having South Korean nationality and the other from the North.

Many passengers complained that they had heard no in-flight announcements or oral instructions as they were evacuated from the burning plane, the reports said.

"When I got out through the emergency chute, flight attendants were already outside," 40-year-old Hiroshima billboard company employee Takanori Yamaoka was quoted by the newspaper Yomiuri as saying.



Passengers of an Indonesian Garuda airliner lie on the ground while receiving first aid after being rescued from the DC-10 plane which caught fire following an aborted take-off from Fukuoka Airport Thursday (Reuters photo)

"There were no announcements or evacuation instructions. They acted too poorly," he added.

Toshihiro Aizono, 26, told the newspaper Asahi, "a foreign stewardess could do nothing but cry out if she was praying."

The three dead were seated in the badly wrecked rear cabin. The newspaper Sankei reported that in the forepart of the cabin stewardesses calmly guided passengers through emergency exits.

The economic newspaper Nihon Keizai reported that Garuda's accident-free record involving its flights to and from Japan had been shattered.

It said that the Indonesian airline had expanded its services here due to the growing popularity of Bali since it opened the Tokyo-Jakarta line in 1962. The Fukuoka-Jakarta line was inaugurated in 1990.

"The travel industry had been murmuring the myth that Garuda was free of accidents despite its use of relatively old aircraft because it was vested with God's wings," the newspaper said.

Meanwhile Garuda Indonesia's president Friday defended his airline's safety record after crash but promised more Japanese-speaking stewardesses after complaints about evacuation procedures.

Mr. Soepandi said the company had had no accident on flights between Japan and Indonesia for 33 years.

North Korean boats make new incursion in Yellow Sea

SEOUL (AFP) — A group of three North Korean patrol boats intruded into South Korean waters Friday, triggering a tense but non-violent standoff with Southern navy ships, military officials said.

The standoff coincided with a massive air raid drill in South Korea as a rehearsal for any attacks by North Korean jet fighters or missiles tipped with chemical and biological warheads.

The crossing of the theoretical demarcation started at 2:35 p.m. (0535 GMT) in sensitive waters in the Yellow Sea on the western side of the Korean peninsula, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

But South Korean vessels, which are under orders to open fire in the event of an emergency, stayed "well away" in the foggy weather in order to avoid any clash, he said.

At one point, the Northern boats trespassed up to seven kilometres (4.2 miles) over the line but eventually retreated after a three-hour standoff, the spokesman said.

Seven South Korean vessels including a destroyer

immediately blocked the path of the North Korean armed boats, asking them to head back North, while other navy ships and fighters were put on a combat footing, he said.

"We assume it was an unintentional intrusion by North Korean patrol boats which were guarding a fleet of Northern fishing boats near the demarcation line," the spokesman said.

"Today's crossing appears different from the intentional foray on May 23," he said.

The maritime demarcation line has not been clearly defined, causing vessels to stray occasionally from one side to the other.

It was the first incursion into South Korean waters by North Korean military vessels this month and the fourth in two months.

The last such incident was on May 23, when five North Korean patrol boats trespassed into South Korean waters, also off the western coast.

South Korean officials have accused the North of making armed incursions along the border in a theatrical display aimed at pressuring Washington into

signing a peace treaty that would sideline Seoul.

In early April, North Korean troops made consecutive forays in Panmunjom, the only crossing point in the demilitarized zone, which divides the Korean peninsula.

The DMZ forays followed Pyongyang's announcement that it would no longer respect the armistice accord signed at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Friday's incursion came three days after South Korea offered to provide \$3 million as part of a U.N. appeal for new food aid for Pyongyang, Japan and the United States also pledged a total of \$12.2 million.

The new aid held out hopes here that North Korea may accept a fresh proposal for peace talks involving the two Koreas, the United States and China on arranging a permanent peace regime on the volatile peninsula.

On Friday, South Korea mobilised 20 military planes to simulate raids, with motorists told to pull their vehicles over to the roadside and the public to head for underground shelters.

Montana Freeman surrender

JORDAN, Montana (R) — Prosecutors prepared to press criminal charges Friday against members of the anti-government Freeman group after the dramatic, bloodless end of the longest federal siege in modern U.S. history.

Some of the 16 Freeman who surrendered peacefully after holding out for 81 days on a ranch ringed by about 100 FBI agents could be arraigned on federal charges as early as Friday in Billings, where they arrived late Thursday for booking at Yellowstone County Jail.

U.S. Attorney Sherry Mautner said 14 of the final group to leave the ranch faced criminal charges, including seven charged with threatening to kidnap and kill federal officials and participating in an alleged \$1.8 million check fraud scheme.

The other seven face charges of assisting federal fugitives avoid arrest during the long standoff, which drew national attention to a poor, sparsely populated rural county the size of Connecticut.

Clinton faces pressure with new Whitewater trial

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (R) — President Bill Clinton, stung by criminal convictions against his former Whitewater business partners, faces another threat when the second trial in the controversial affair opens Monday.

Two bankers, both of whom had influential posts in the Arkansas state government, are accused of failing to report large cash transactions by then-Governor Clinton's reelection campaign in 1990 and of illegally convert-

ing bank funds into campaign contributions.

As in the first Whitewater trial, which ended with a string of convictions in Arkansas two weeks ago, Mr. Clinton faces no charges but has been subpoenaed as a defence witness and will testify by videotape. He is expected to make his videotaped testimony at the White House on July 7.

Bruce Lindsey, a former law partner of Mr. Clinton and now a close White

House aide, is also under subpoena and will likely be called as a defence witness.

Defence lawyers for defendants Herby Branscum and Robert Hill say they believe the team of independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who leads the so-called Whitewater investigation into Mr. Clinton's personal and political finances, will try to implicate the president at every turn.

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Restraint is the order of the day

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's meeting with President Bill Clinton in Washington Thursday came on the heels of new realities in the Middle East created by the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as the new Israeli prime minister and the imminent forming of a new Israeli cabinet led by Likud, and including right-wing parties. With most of the Arab World fearful of the dramatic changes in Israeli political landscape, and what that might entail, the future of the peace seems to be in doubt. The King's talks with President Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Secretary of Defence William Perry, Secretary of Commerce Mickey Cantor, congressional leaders, Arab American and Jewish American groups all have one purpose in mind and that is how to salvage the peace process from Arab anxieties that followed Israeli pronouncements.

In the wake of the Damascus summit held recently between Syrian President Hafez Assad, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, the Arab World has in effect sounded the alarm about what could be in store for the region especially on the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese fronts. With the upcoming Cairo summit projected to endorse this Arab concern, Jordan in turn is trying hard to mitigate a premature Arab reaction to the Netanyahu's rise to power. In this context, there is a meeting of the mind between Jordan and the U.S. on the need to keep all doors open for the resumption of the peace process on all tracks.

The appeal for moderation and restraint in these trying times obviously calls for a stronger Jordan, economically, politically and militarily. This country has been promised much aid and support in the past but unfortunately very little of it was actually delivered. The economy of the country is in no way near what it would be in the wake of the signing of the peace treaty with Israel. Jordan cannot continue to preach moderation to its own people and the other Arab governments and peoples as long as it has very little to show for its support for a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region. The excellent relations that exist between Jordan and the U.S. can go a long way to show the way for continued faith and conviction in peace in the area.

Still, there is a lot more that the newly elected Israeli prime minister can do to help all those who are solidly on the side of peace. Mr. Netanyahu is called upon to spell out his broad policy outline as soon as possible reaffirming his commitment to honour in good faith international legitimacy including the agreements already struck with the Palestinian side. The Arab side cannot continue to outguess the Likud-led government on the prospects for peace as long as it calls for continued Israeli occupation of Arab Jerusalem, Palestinian territories and Syrian Golan Heights. Pronouncements and counter pronouncements cannot create the necessary climate for the resumption of the peace talks, especially on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks. Only good faith and high standards of statesmanship can ensure that what has been achieved so far can be built on for the sake of a stable and secure region. Anything being said in Damascus or Tel Aviv is being heard very carefully on the other side, and anything said in good faith and intention will certainly be received in good faith.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i has attacked the coming summit meeting because he said it is not dedicated to achieving solidarity among Arabs but rather to serving as a ploy to consecrate divisions and disputes among the Arab heads of state and governments. The June 21-23 summit is excluding Iraq and Sudan at the request of the United States which does not seem satisfied with these two countries' behaviour and therefore nothing could be expected from such a meeting, charged Fahd Al Fanek. Jordan, which accepted the invitation to attend the summit, was acting from a principled stand of extending a helping hand towards rallying the Arabs in confronting common challenges, but this country, like any other Arab state, also has the right to refrain from attending if it finds that the aim of this meeting runs contrary to the national aspirations, continued the writer. He said the summit in Cairo is like a play whose scenario has been prepared in Damascus and will be directed in Cairo, and is mainly designed to support the Syrian stand although all the Arabs are incapable of helping Damascus regain control of the Golan Heights, added the writer. He said it is regrettable that the coming summit is not aimed, directly or indirectly, to back the Palestine National Authority's efforts to regain control of Palestinian lands although the Palestinian leadership is in dire need of assistance in its struggle in the face of the new Israeli leaders who are intent on perpetuating their occupation of the Arab territories.

A writer for Al Dustour warned that a national unity government in Israel, grouping the Likud and Labour, would serve a devastating blow to the peace process. It is not in the interest of the Palestinians or the other Arabs to have the Labour Party join the Likud in forming a coalition since each partner in the coalition would be directing its attention towards its own interests and not towards the peace applied by the Arabs, said Saleh Qalal. In the event of such a coalition, each party would be outbidding the other in manifesting extremism towards the Palestinians and its adamant stand with regard to returning Arab lands occupied since 1967 to the Arab countries, he continued. The writer said that in such a situation, the Arab World would find itself face to face with a situation close to a state of war with the Jewish state, a situation that would last at least for the coming four years.

Jordanian Perspective

'Israel's security cannot be assured through continued refusal to accept Palestinian and Arab rights'

WE DO not know yet the details of what His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President Bill Clinton discussed during their meeting in Washington on Thursday, but we do know one thing: the Jordanian role in Middle Eastern politics has been given an additional dimension in view of the Kingdom's relations with Israel after the victory of right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister of the Jewish state.

Obviously, Washington is pinning great hopes that Jordan would be able to allay Arab fears that the Middle East peace process would stagnate with Mr. Netanyahu in power in Israel, given the headline policy statements that the Likud leader had made during his election campaign as well as his comments after winning the elections.

The Washington meeting, coming as it did ahead of the first Arab summit in more than five years, was also of high significance because it was the first opportunity for President Clinton to meet an Arab leader after the jolting results of the Israeli elections in which Washington implicitly backed the incumbent prime minister of Israel, Shimon Peres, the architect of the Middle East peace process.

But if Washington is hoping that Jordan would seek to influence the Arab leaders gathered in Cairo next week in favour of the new right-wing government in Israel, then it also bears a major responsibility to amend the ways of Mr. Netanyahu and his camp in dealing with the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab World.

Indeed, we have heard Mr. Netanyahu promise that he would continue the peace process and resume the negotiations with the Palestinians and other Arabs. But that promise is simply a non-starter because of his refusal to accept an independent state, to return the Golan Heights to Syria and to stop expanding settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. Add to that his "vow" that Jerusalem would not be "redivided" and would remain the "eternal, indivisible capital" of Israel.

All these positions are predetermining the outcome of peace negotiations and run contrary to the very objectives

of the Palestinians and Arabs involved in the process. So, if we take Mr. Netanyahu's pronouncements at face value, then it is clear that there is not going to be any peace process. Then what meaning do the Likud leader's vows to continue the peace process have?

As such, we see very little substance in the expressed hopes of the Clinton administration that the peace process would continue unimpeded despite the headline positions of the new Israeli leadership.

Of course, one widely-heard suggestion is that Mr. Netanyahu, who is also expected to meet President Clinton in Washington soon, could be influenced by the U.S. administration to appreciate the realities of the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We have little doubt that the Israeli premier-elect does appreciate those requirements but is not willing to honour them. It is not a question of brow-beating him to acknowledge those realities but of convincing him to respect and honour them if the objective of the peace process is a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on security for Israel — and of course all others in the region — and dignity and freedom as well as better living environment for all those concerned. That is precisely what Mr. Netanyahu has been trying to negate through his declarations that "security" for Israel on its own was the fundamental pillar of his strategy in the peace process.

Against this background, Washington would be naive to expect Jordan to launch an initiative to convince the Arabs to do business with Mr. Netanyahu simply because it has signed a peace accord with the Jewish state and has set a model for peaceful coexistence in the Middle East. For one thing, Jordan, which has paid the highest price for the Palestinian problem and its repercussions, remains fully committed to helping the Palestinians to realise their legitimate rights on their national soil. For another, the Kingdom has made comprehensive peace based on the realisation of Arab rights and restoration of Arab lands to Arabs

as the backbone of its political moves. On both counts, there is little prospect at this point in time that Mr. Netanyahu would be amenable to accepting these key objectives.

Washington, in its capacity not only as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process but also as a "strategic ally" of Israel, bears a major responsibility to ensure that the Jewish state, regardless of the change in its leadership, remains fully committed to the very principles of the Madrid conference that launched the peace negotiations. Anything less than that would not get the peace process anywhere.

Having said that, however, we also have to remember that Mr. Netanyahu's Likud had "committed" itself to those principles — international legitimacy and United Nations Security Council resolutions that explicitly uphold the land-for-peace formula — when it attended the Madrid conference. But the catch here, as former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir unveiled after losing 1992 elections, is that the Likud government's strategy at that time was to prolong the negotiations with the Palestinians for decades while seeking to achieve normal relations with other Arab parties, including those who are not directly involved in the peace talks.

As such, Jordan finds itself in a difficult situation in its efforts to ensure that the peace process continues on track towards the clear goal of peace based on the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and all other Arabs and stability and security for all in the region.

So the ball is fully back in the American court. There are many cards that Washington could use to convince "Mr. Netanyahu and Company" that Israel's security cannot be assured through continued refusal to accept Palestinian and Arab rights, but only through explicit and irrevocable recognition of those rights. Only then could Jordan step forward.

'Eyeless in Gaza, at the mill with slaves'

By G. H. Jansen

THOSE SOMBER words from Milton's "Samson Agonistes" on the fate the eponymous hero suffered at the hands of the Philistines irresistibly brings to mind the fate now being suffered in Gaza by Dr. Eyad Sarraj at the hands of Yasser Arafat's Palestine National Authority.

For sad it is but true that even before the first independent Palestinian government has been established it has been rent in twain by a horrendous violation of human rights. Those involved in this tragedy are, on the one hand, President Yasser Arafat, and on the other, Dr. Eyad Sarraj, the psychiatrist who is the Commissioner General of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights (PICCR) and Direc-

tor of the Gaza Centre for Mental Health.

At midnight on June 9, 1996, Arafat's thuggish police of the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) arrested Dr. Sarraj at home and detained him in prison.

The next morning, June 10, the CIB raided the mental health centre, searched Dr. Sarraj's office for an hour and a half, confiscating documents and, allegedly, a "quantity of hashish". When asked for a search warrant, the officer in charge of the operation responded: "My existence is enough of a warrant," which is typical of the arrogant attitude of Arafat's security forces.

Dr. Sarraj was held incommunicado with no access to his lawyer, family, friends or officials of the commission. However, he managed to smuggle a note

out of his place of incarceration saying that he had been tortured and beaten, that he was being framed on a drugs charge and that his life was in danger.

This is the third time that he has been arrested in six months because of statements he made and the June 9 arrest came only two weeks after a nine day detention.

Dr. Sarraj was arrested in May because of an interview he gave to a journalist of "The New York Times" in which the doctor said that the self-rule authority was "corrupt, dictatorial and oppressive."

That sort of criticism of the Arafat regime has become increasingly common in Gaza and the West Bank since Arafat's return from exile in Tunis. It soon became clear that Arafat was not interested in setting up any form of

democratic government but only in establishing his own autocratic dictatorship which would not permit or accept criticism. So Dr. Sarraj's stern words were totally objectionable to the authority.

Because of Dr. Sarraj's earlier arrests, a general question about the Palestinian National Authority's record on human rights was put to Arafat when he addressed the Oxford Union debating society early this month. His first words in reply, "Ah yes, Dr. Sarraj," whose case has now been linked with human rights in Arafat's mind.

Arafat then went on to claim that the doctor had apologised for what he had said in his interview. This was a lie. The doctor had in fact written a letter to Arafat saying he regretted distress, but did not back down on the accusations he made about the conduct of the authority. And when the doctor heard that he was supposed to

have apologised he sent a second letter to Arafat denying the alleged apology and reasserting that what he had said in the interview was correct. It was this rejoinder that led to Dr. Sarraj's latest, third arrest.

The judge of the civil court in Gaza threw out the drugs charge on June 13 and ordered the doctor to be released on bail. But on another trumped up charge of assaulting a policeman in prison, the doctor was remanded for 15 days by a military court.

The point has been made that because of their work doctors are often in possession of drugs, especially if they are psychiatrists.

It is summarised in Gaza that because of the persistent, baseless and arbitrary charges being brought against Dr. Sarraj and his physical maltreatment by the police, the Arafat regime is trying to push him out of Gaza and force him to

go to Britain where his wife and family reside. If the doctor leaves, the Human Rights Commission will really be "eyeless in Gaza," but it should also be noted that "the slaves" are not those being punished, as in the time of Samson, but those doing the punishing. Also that Palestinian journalists based in Gaza and Jerusalem have been so intimidated by Arafat's men that, claiming ignorance of these well-known events, they do not write about this case. Furthermore, the dozen Palestinian human rights organisations have so far not mentioned one word about this case while the Israeli group which deals with abuses against Palestinians has yet to decide about getting involved. Thus, all the Palestinian human rights organisations have been rendered "eyeless in Gaza".

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Cairo summit — the way for inter-Arab coordination

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

EDITORIALS AND columnists' articles in the local Arabic press last week discussed prospects of the coming Arab summit meeting in Cairo, the peace process, Arab affairs and domestic issues.

The coming Arab summit in Cairo will not disturb Israel in the least because the Arabs are in total disarray and six of their countries maintain diplomatic and trade ties with the Jewish state, said Taher Al Adwan, a writer for Al Dustour.

Indeed, Ehud Olmert, the Likud Party member and mayor of Jerusalem, has said that no Arab summit's decision can ever affect Israel's plans in Judaea the holy city or building Jewish settlements, neither will any threats force Israel to change its position with regard to the occupied Arab territories, said the writer.

What could such a summit achieve at a time when the Arabs are split more than ever before, three of their countries are victim to the U.S.-imposed embargo while the military power of Iraq is being dismantled and while the Israelis maintain military cooperation with Turkey, Eritrea and above all the sole superpower? asked the writer.

It is true that Syria has succeeded in persuading the Arabs to convene a summit, but he said any chances for the Arabs to adopt a joint stand vis-à-vis the Israeli threats are very slim indeed.

A writer for Al Ra'i agreed,

saying that the Cairo summit is not expected to mobilise the Arab Nation's potential to confront the Jewish state nor will the Arab leaders take any decision that might bring any change to the present situation in the Middle East.

Jamal Najji said that while the previous Arab summits were dedicated to rallying the Arab countries towards a collective action against Israel's intransigence and the continued occupation of Arab lands, this time the summit does not have this strategy at all and therefore there is no need for this meeting which has no objective except to try end differences among Arab leaders.

The writer said it is to be regretted that only when the Likud Party assumed power in Israel the Arab leaders decided to meet as if they had not been aware of their chronic issues all these past years.

Mohammed Awash, a writer for Al Dustour, said that the United States is now trying to reconcile the Arab countries' stand at the coming summit with that of the new Israeli government led by the Likud Party. Washington is now trying to bridge the gap between the Arabs' point of view and those of Benjamin Netanyahu to ensure that the U.S.-sponsored peace process will go ahead unperturbed, said the writer.

Labour government of Israel, according to the writer.

Now that the Arabs have decided to meet in Cairo, it is incumbent upon them to conduct an overall revision of their stand, not only with regard to inter-Arab relations but also with regard to the Palestine question, which is the central issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to Tayseer Zibri, a writer for Al Ra'i.

Despite the exclusion of Iraq from this summit, the Arab heads of state should realise that they are now face to face with a new danger represented in the emergence of the Likud Party as leader of the coming Israeli government for the next four years, he said.

It is true that the Arab masses had wanted their leaders to hold such a summit for a long time, particularly in the wake of the deteriorating conditions in the Arab World, said the writer, and therefore the coming meeting should be dedicated not only to mending fences among Arab countries but, more importantly, to charting a strategy that would ensure the end of Israel's occupation of Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian territories.

We can only welcome the convening of an Arab summit in response to a call by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria, which coordinated their stands through Egypt with those of Palestine and Jordan, said Hamadeh Faraaneh, a writer for Al Dustour.

The writer said the three Arab countries that called for

the summit in their Damascus declaration have emphasised the Arab Nation's demands that U.N. Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425 be implemented on the basis of exchanging land for peace, adding that this is the basis for the coming Arab meeting and therefore it is hoped that the summit will declare its support for this declaration and open the way for further inter-Arab coordination to achieve the aspired goals.

He said that the Arabs have no doubt adopted "a just and comprehensive peace" as their national strategy and therefore they should pursue efforts to see that this objective is fulfilled.

Sultan Al Hattab discussed the redeployment of Israeli troops in Hebron, the remaining main town in the occupied Palestinian lands where redeployment must take place as provided for in the Oslo agreements.

He said that Israel's premier-elect Benjamin Netanyahu is still adamant about not redeploying the troops, in contravention of the Oslo agreements concluded by the Palestinians with the Israelis under the Labour-led government.

The redeployment of troops is an essential step towards the implementation of the peace agreement between the two sides, but the outgoing government had delayed it in the hope of winning the favour of the extremist groups in the parliamentary elections, said the writer who stressed that since the agreement was reached with Israel as a state

and not as a party, they ought to be implemented by whoever assumes power in Israel.

Nawaf Zaru, a writer for Al Dustour, demanded that all Arab states freeze and if necessary end their normalisation with the Jewish state as long as the peace process is at a standstill.

Those Arab states which support the idea of normalisation should re-examine their position in light of the new diplomatic developments in the Jewish state and the new extremists stand of the Likud, said the writer.

He said that the Arabs had embarked on the process of normalisation and established ties with the Jewish state on the assumption that it is genuinely oriented towards achieving a just and comprehensive peace with the Arab countries, but since this is not materialising, he said a change of heart on the part of the Arab governments now seems inevitable.

Writing in Al Dustour, Taher Al Adwan said that the Jordanian people renewed their solidarity with their brothers in Iraq by despatching a delegation representing various political parties, trade unions and organisations to Baghdad to voice their support for the Iraqis' steadfastness.

The delegation truly represents the feelings of the man in the street despite the numerous attempts to ruin the relationship between the two countries. He said that the overwhelming national feelings in Jordan and other Arab countries in support of the Iraqi people stem primarily

from the fact that the Iraqis are unjustly treated by the world community under the influence of the major Western powers that seek to subdue the Arab Nation.

The writer said that the time has come for the Arab governments to follow the example of the Arab masses and end their own embargo against their brothers and so end their ordeal that has lasted for six years.

Mohammed Daoud, a writer for Al Dustour, said that the majority of the Jordanian public cannot afford effective and modern medical treatment employing sophisticated medical equipment which costs a fortune. Only the wealthy patients can afford such kind of treatment at the private hospitals while the government-run hospitals remain unable to meet such needs of the less fortunate patients, he said.

The writer suggested that private hospitals take the initiative in creating special funds to pay for the treatment of the needy and that major firms deduct a small amount of their annual income for this fund, similar to deductions made for the state-run universities which offer higher education.

Such fund can also be augmented through public collections like those made for the electrification of the rural regions or those collected for charity. The writer said that part of the huge profits made by the major companies in Jordan should be dedicated to helping the needy patients so that social solidarity can become a reality.



Begin's aide: Premier not misled by Sharon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Menachem Begin's closest aide said Thursday that the late prime minister was not misled by Ariel Sharon about plans to send the army as far as Beirut during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Yehiel Kadishai's affidavit was submitted to a Tel Aviv court as evidence in a \$160,000 libel suit filed by Mr. Sharon, who was defence minister at the time, against the Haaretz newspaper and its correspondent Uzi Benziman, Israeli media said.

Israeli officials initially said troops would go no further than 40 kilometres into Lebanon. But the invasion pushed much further and Israel ended up occupying the southern half of Lebanon for three years. Some 600 Israeli troops died.

Haaretz reported in 1991 that Mr. Sharon had misled Mr. Begin about the invasion's planned extent — a version supported in a recent affidavit by Mr. Begin's son, Likud lawmaker Benjamin Begin.

But Mr. Kadishai, appearing to back the former defence minister, says Mr. Begin told him he knew the army would need to exceed the promised limit to complete Israel's goals, Israel Radio said.

"If Begin had suspected that Sharon lied to him, I would have known," Mr. Kadishai wrote in his affidavit, according to the radio.

Mr. Sharon was forced to resign after Israeli-allied militiamen massacred hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Israeli-controlled territory in September 1982.

Mr. Begin, who grew increasingly withdrawn as Israeli casualties and criticism of his government mounted, resigned in 1983. He became a recluse and died in 1992 without ever publicly addressing the various controversies about the war.

In his affidavit, Mr. Kadishai denies any connection between the Lebanon invasion and Mr. Begin's resignation.

In 1986, Mr. Sharon won a libel case against Time magazine. A U.S. jury found Time made a factual error in claiming that a secret Israeli report said Mr. Sharon had discussed revenge with Lebanese officials before the refugee camp massacres. But the jury said Time acted without malice, and was not liable for monetary damages.

U.S. wants relationship of 'trust, confidence' with Israel

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Clinton administration said Wednesday it looks forward "to developing a relationship of trust and confidence" with the government of Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu "as we had with the predecessor government."

This assertion came from Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Robert H. Pelletreau in his testimony before the House International Relations Committee on recent developments in the Middle East.

Mr. Pelletreau noted in his delivered remarks that Mr. Netanyahu "has said he wants to preserve what has been achieved up to this point and expressed a strong commitment to continue the peace process."

He added, "we welcome that commitment."

The hearings were chaired by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), who expressed "alarm" at news reports that Russia continues to restrict the activities of the Jewish Agency. The full text of Mr. Pelletreau's prepared remarks were made available to the committee.

Several congressmen, including Rep. Lee Hamilton, the ranking Democratic member of the House International Relations Committee, raised several questions with Mr. Pelletreau.

Among the issues discussed were the Palestinian annulment of the scheduled Israeli pullout from Hebron, "offensive" clauses in the Palestinian national charter, a mutual defence pact with Israel, Syrian-Jordanian relations, the recent killing of Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon, and the U.S. economic embargo against Iran.

Mr. Pelletreau told the committee that the United States has "an enduring interest in preserving, consolidating, and building upon the achievements of the Arab-Israeli peace process."

On all matters pertaining to the Palestinian compliance with their commitments, Mr. Pelletreau said, the U.S. continues to monitor the Palestine Liberation Organisation's performance under the terms of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, which is still held up in Congress.

"The United States has worked hard to find ways to support the Palestinian people as they strive to manage their affairs and develop a viable economy."

In response to the worsening economic situation in the Palestinian self-rule areas, particularly after the Israeli closure, Mr. Pelletreau continued, the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee charged with coordinating assistance, agreed on April 12 to press ahead with an emergency jobs programme and core development projects "to ease the stress on the Palestinian economy."

The U.S. Agency for International Development has now released \$170 million of the five-year \$500 million pledged by the United States towards development programmes and start-up costs of the new Palestinian administration.

"U.S. economic assistance to the Palestinians has been an important anchor to the peace process," he emphasised. "It has helped Palestinians to implement the peace accords with Israel, effectively manage areas under their responsibility, and build critical infrastructure and improve the climate for doing business."

Mr. Pelletreau promised that the Clinton administration "will continue to press ahead with our assistance programme, while we closely monitor its management and impact on the lives of ordinary Palestinians."

He then urged Rep. Gilman's support in "freeing up the U.S. contribution

to the Holst Fund in the near future."

Turning to the Iraqi-U.N. oil-for-food agreement which permits the sale of \$2,000 million worth of Iraqi oil to finance the imports of food and medicine, Mr. Pelletreau emphasised the agreement is not "a precursor to lifting the U.N.-imposed sanctions" against Iraq. "It is a humanitarian exception that preserves and even reinforces the sanctions regime."

Mr. Pelletreau concluded his oral presentation by stressing that, "despite the many dangers that persist to regional security, the underlying prospects for a more peaceful, prosperous and stable region remain very good."

Asked whether the U.S. is still opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state, Mr. Pelletreau recalled that in the past the U.S. view was that "we did not see a place for a Palestinian state" in the region. But, Mr. Pelletreau added, this is one of the issues to be discussed in the permanent-status talks between the Israelis and Palestinians, and the U.S. will support whatever agreement they reach.

He also said there has been no movement on the question of the U.S. entering into a mutual defence agreement with Israel and that a steering committee was looking into the possibility of whether "additional agreements might be appropriate or necessary."

Mr. Pelletreau repeatedly assured congressmen that the U.S. and Israeli governments regard the recent action of the Palestinian National Council in abolishing the anti-Israeli references in the Palestinian charter as meeting the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's "commitment to abolish all inconsistent articles."

Mr. Pelletreau told the committee that it will be "a severe blow" if Congress fails to provide any funding to the Middle East Development Bank, one of the key institutions agreed upon at the Middle East/North Africa economic summit.

In reply to a question, Mr. Pelletreau said the deadline over Israeli pullout from Hebron, originally scheduled for March 28, "doesn't mean so much" if the Palestinians and the new Israeli government "can work out something together" on how that part of the existing agreement is implemented. "We've seen during the course of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that sometimes specific deadlines are not met."

The assistant secretary

Srouf reaffirms policies

Continued from page 12

him views and information on mechanism of work in the Jordanian Parliament and the French national assembly.

Mr. Srouf reviewed Jordan's parliamentary and democratic march, stressing the country's resolve to pursue democracy.

Also on Thursday, Mr. Srouf met with the president of the Jordanian-French parliamentary association which comprises 60 French parliamentarians and discussed means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in parliamentary affairs.

Mr. Srouf also held a second round of talks with his French counterpart Philippe Seguen and reviewed with him results of the visit by the Jordanian parliamentary delegation to France.

The Jordanian and French sides agreed to pursue meetings, consultations and exchange of views on means of enhancing bilateral cooperation.

King's talks 'most fruitful'

Continued from page 1

meeting at the expert level will be held next week to discuss means of providing economic support for Jordan, Dr. Muasher added in the telephone interview.

Following their talks, King Hussein and President Bill Clinton reaffirmed Thursday their goal of a broad Middle East peace despite Arab concerns over Israel's new right-wing leadership.

"We affirmed our partnership for peace in the Middle East and our determination to keep working for it," Mr. Clinton told reporters at the White House after the talks.

King Hussein was the first Arab leader to meet with Mr. Clinton since the Israelis elected Mr. Netanyahu to replace Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

King Hussein told Mr. Clinton he welcomed the opportunity to talk to him and to assure him Jordan was "totally committed to the cause of peace."

The meeting also comes one week before the first Arab summit in six years. The region is still deeply divided by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, but the meeting was hastily convened in Cairo from June 21-23 to discuss concerns about Mr. Netanyahu's stunning upset.

Mr. Clinton, who implicitly backed Mr. Peres, reiterated his confidence that the new leader would not derail the peace process. U.S. officials have worked so hard to advance and urged Arab states meeting next week against snap judgement.

"I would hope that they would reaffirm their commitment to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East," Mr. Clinton said. "And I would hope that they would give Mr. Netanyahu an opportunity to constitute his government and set a policy and not presume that he can't

Arabs not seeking confrontation

Continued from page 1

the various declarations from certain quarters. Threatening rhetoric will produce exactly the opposite effect," Mr. Netanyahu said on Thursday.

Mr. Musa said he viewed a troop withdrawal from parts of the West Bank city of Hebron, promised by the outgoing Israeli government, as a litmus test.

Should Israel not redeploy, Mr. Musa said, "we will lose

he would discuss Palestinian claims over Jerusalem and "the Arab-Israeli confrontation, and the peace process and its development."

"We are asking for a clear and definite Arab position on the Palestinian issue and the question of Jerusalem," Mr. Hussein told reporters. "It should be clear that any deviation from agreements which Israel and the Palestinians committed themselves to will be unacceptable."

3 children, guerrilla killed

Continued from page 1

clash, but made no mention of militia casualties.

Israeli and SLA gunmen shelled suspected guerrilla hideouts in hills and villages facing the "security zone" after the attack. No casualties were reported.

Tension in South Lebanon rose sharply Monday after five Israeli soldiers were killed and eight wounded in a Hizbollah ambush.

According to Israel Radio, Premier-elect Benjamin Netanyahu, elected on a "get tough with the Arabs"

policy, is coming under strong pressure even from relative moderates in his Likud-led coalition to commit ground forces and push Israel 15-kilometre "security zone" farther north to the Litani river, the Times of London reported. "That would put Israel's northern border out of the range of [Hizbollah-fired] Katyusha rockets," Israel radio said.

The Times said: A senior Israeli officer, in a separate radio interview, advocated the takeover of villages used by Hizbollah to launch attacks, even if they were

Netanyahu finalises cabinet

Continued from page 1

capital.

In the programme, Israel pledges to pursue negotiations "with the Palestinians" and no longer refers to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) as specified in an earlier draft.

It says the government will insist on the Jordan River as its eastern border and refuse to dismantle any Jewish settlements during talks on a final peace settlement with the Palestinians, which opened briefly in May before being suspended until after the elections.

The policy guidelines also rule out a return of the Golan Heights to Syria, at the demand of the Third Way, another of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition partners.

"The government considers the Golan as a region vital for Israel's security and water resources. In any accord with Syria, Israel will maintain its sovereignty over the Golan, in line with the (annexation) law," the text states.

Damascus has said it will not resume peace talks with the Jewish state if the Golan is not up for negotiation.

Mr. Netanyahu told parties in his coalition that he had clinched a deal with two of the six religious, rightist and centrist groups with which he has been holding negotiations. The two parties were not named.

The parliamentary officials said Mr. Netanyahu would appoint David Levy as his foreign minister and former General Yitzhak Mordechai, another moderate, as defence

minister.

Mr. Eitan is tipped for the internal security ministry which controls the police, but a possible indictment against him for illegal use of military documents could block the way.

Religious parties — with a total of 23 of 120 Knesset seats — have put forth a series of demands, including: banning pork sales, closing businesses and roads on the Jewish Sabbath and continued orthodox monopoly on marriage, divorce and conversion.

These are anathema to secular coalition partners like the Russian immigrants' party of ex-servant dissident Natan Sharansky. Many of the nearly 700,000 recent Soviet immigrants are not considered Jews by the orthodox establishment.

In addition, Mr. Sharansky and the religious parties are also struggling over control of the powerful housing ministry.

There were persistent reports that Mr. Netanyahu might turn to the Labour Party to form a broad coalition that would neutralise the hargaining power of the religious parties.

The Jerusalem Post daily reported Thursday that outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres now favours such a coalition in order to guarantee the continuation of the peace process with the Arabs.

Israel's Channel 2 TV said Mr. Netanyahu now wanted to appoint Mr. Eitan to head the less prestigious agriculture ministry instead.

Netanyahu's victory troubles panel of Middle East experts

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The election of Benjamin Netanyahu has sparked a good deal of debate in Washington about the effect on the Middle East peace process, with many observers expressing fear that the achievements of the past few years may give way to a new era of confrontation and hostility.

Others continue to hope that the new Israeli prime minister will prove to be a pragmatic supporter of rapprochement with the Palestinians, albeit a less eager one than his immediate predecessors.

This same mixture of anxiety and cautious hope was in evidence at a briefing hosted by the U.S. Institute of Peace here on Thursday. The tone of the discussion was set by Institute Counsellor Samuel Lewis, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel who suggested that the recent tide of peace might be about to ebb, stranding those who had supported the process and leaving some "extraordinary achievements on the beach."

He said, however, that he was confident that peace between the Israelis and Palestinians would come during his lifetime.

Ahmad Khalidi, a Palestinian delegate to the Washington peace talks in 1993-94 and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, noted a number of challenges facing Israeli-Palestinian relations as a result of Mr. Netanyahu's election.

One is establishing communications between Palestinian leaders and the new Likud government, few of whose members have had much contact with Palestinians prior to now.

A second is maintaining the momentum of the peace process. Mr. Khalidi was concerned that an escalation in Arab-Israeli violence would occur if the pace of peace progress is not kept up. Another fear was that something might happen to Palestinian National Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat whose leadership he called the "cement" which holds the Palestinian movement together.

"There is little that could be more destructive than the loss of Mr. Arafat," this fact is not lost on the enemies of peace, he commented.

Yet another source of danger facing both Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat is Hamas, which Mr. Khalidi said he thought would be "very, very likely" to provoke incidents and challenge Netanyahu's assurances that he could provide more security for the Israelis than the Labour government did. Mr. Khalidi also predicted that a major crisis could well erupt in Lebanon early on in Netanyahu's administration.

A more reassuring view was presented by Mordecai Bar-On, a former chief of staff to Moshe Dayan and prominent activist in Israel's Peace Now movement, a history of which he has just recently completed.

Mr. Bar-On repeatedly cited polls which show 65 per cent of the Israeli electorate supporting the peace process and predicted that the peace movement would again play an important role in Israeli politics.

Mr. Lewis noted, however, that a large majority of Israel's Jewish voters had voted for Mr. Netanyahu and that many of them seemed to agree with the prime-minister elect's contention that the peace process has been going too fast and taking too many risks.

Mr. Bar-On appeared to reflect the views of the other panelists when he said that Mr. Netanyahu "has to understand that the march (for peace) must go on." Otherwise Mr. Arafat will not be able to keep the Palestinians from turning away from peace. "As an Israeli, I am very worried," he stated.

Israelis favour Hebron pullout

Continued from page 1

ron.

"His choice is between peace and no peace. There is no option in between," said Palestinian cabinet minister Saeb Erakat. He said Israel must also establish "safe passage" routes between Gaza and the West Bank and release more Palestinian prisoners.

Mr. Arafat and members of the Palestinian legislative council are in Nablus for meetings on the implications of Israel's change of government.

Mr. Arafat, who did not speak to reporters, appeared feeble as he entered a Nablus mosque with the help of two guards. Another man helped the PLO chief take off his shoes for the Friday prayer. Last month, there were reports Mr. Arafat suffered a minor stroke.

On Thursday, Mr. Netanyahu warned the Palestinians to tone down their negative rhetoric after reports that Palestinian security officials had suggested they would stop fighting militants if Israel slowed down the peace process.

Palestinian officials denied the reports.

But on Friday, Israel's Yediot Ahronot daily quoted Mr. Arafat's West Bank security chief, Jibril Rajoub, as saying that if Mr. Netanyahu decided to resume expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank this would be viewed as a provocation.

Mr. Rajoub warned that if Israel violated existing agreements, "we too will not be bound by the agreement."

On Thursday Mr. Netanyahu visited Jewish settlers whose daughter was killed in an attack.

Mr. Netanyahu's visit to the parents of Efaat Unger, who was killed with her husband in a drive-by shooting inside Israel on Sunday, was an expression of solidarity with Jewish settlers who say the past years' Israel-PLO autonomy accords harmed their security.

"The ultimate test of every agreement that we will make and have made in the past is security," said Mr. Netanyahu. "There will be no compromises on this issue."

Iraq

Continued from page 1

move which could set the legal basis for military action.

But several countries expressed reservations over the British-American proposal. Diplomats said the council could meet over the weekend to hammer out a statement for Mr. Ekeus to take to Baghdad this week.

In Paris, the French government expressed support for the weapons inspectors but stopped short of backing the tough U.S.-British initiative.

Indonesia on Friday circulated a revised declaration, which eliminated the reference to "material breach" and simply stated that Iraq was in violation of various U.N. resolutions.

But a Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Indonesian version was "clearly not strong enough" to satisfy Washington and London.

Also Friday, U.N. spokesman Ahmad Fawzi said Dr. Ghali "sincerely hopes" that the standoff will not effect progress toward implementing the oil-for-food agreement.

Palestinian economists assail Israel, PLO

BIR ZEIT, West Bank(R)—Palestinian economists are criticising the economic performance of Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority, although they recognise the hardships caused by tough Israeli security measures.

Faced with falling revenues and unemployment caused by Israel's tight control of borders, the authority is spending too much on bureaucracy and failing to give top priority to economic development, they say.

Dozens of Palestinian economists gathered at Bir Zeit University this week for a four-day economic conference entitled "The Palestinian Economy: Towards a Vision".

"The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has shown overwhelming concern with expanding bureaucracy to non-productive activities such as police and security," said George Abed, a Palestinian with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), after the conference.

"This drains resources from the budget which could be used more effectively in development," he said.

Mr. Abed said the interim self-rule administration in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had failed to place rapid economic growth at the top of its agenda and lacked a coherent economic view.

"The PNA has exhibited some tendencies which benefit the private sector, but it has also established trading monopolies which distort the economy and are inefficient," he said.

"The IMF has advised the authority on how to create an organisational structure in the finance ministry and the monetary authority that is efficient, and that is actually limited," Mr. Abed said.

But economists concede that the authority lacks experience and operates under Israeli constraints.

"The ongoing Israeli closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the ever-more-strict Israeli control of trade borders, have curtailed economic activity and stalled donor-funded pro-

grammes," said Samir Abdullah of the Ramallah-based Arab Economists Association.

Israel clamped a tight closure on the two areas following suicide bombings that killed 59 people in the Jewish state in February and March.

Losses from the block on Palestinian goods and workers reaching Israel have cost the West Bank and Gaza more than \$6 million per day, according to the Palestine Economic Pulse, a bi-monthly economic journal.

Economists also criticised Israel's one-sided application of its interim economic agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The accords envisaged a customs union and an integrated labour market between Israel and the PNA, as a basis for peaceful and mutually beneficial economic relations.

Under the customs union, Israel was to gain access to low-wage Palestinian labour and a captive Palestinian market worth about \$2 bil-

lion a year. Palestinian workers were to retain access to jobs in Israel, and the PNA was to earn tax receipts from the customs union.

While the agreement has produced some tax revenues for the PNA, economic integration never materialised.

The number of Palestinians working in Israel, the leading source of Palestinian income, fell to an average of 30,000 in 1995 from 120,000 in 1993, according to the World Bank.

Foreign donors are also complaining about the effects of extended closures. Rising unemployment and falling tax revenues are expected to add \$100 million to the PNA's projected 1996 budget deficit of \$183 million, said Odin Knudsen, World Bank representative in the West Bank and Gaza.

The largest portion of World Bank assistance to the two areas already goes towards payment of PNA salaries and current expenditures.

"Donors are looking at

funding an expanded budget deficit, thereby diverting even more finance from investment programmes intended to create the real economic base of a future for the Palestinians," Mr. Knudsen said.

Economists hope that Palestinian representatives will secure a better deal in final-status peace talks with Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu, a right-winger, has yet to outline his vision of a permanent economic agreement with the Palestinians. "If it was all right for Palestinians to enter agreements without sufficient preparation during the interim phase, it is certainly not all right to do so in the permanent status negotiations," said Nabil Kassis, a former Palestinian peace negotiator who attended the economic conference.

"Careful and thorough preparation is mandatory now," he said.

Jordan's new electricity law to become effective 'very soon'

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The new electricity law, which is supposed to start the commercialisation process of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and to mark an opening up of the power generation field to the private sector, is "expected to become effective after being published in the official Gazette very soon," JEA chief engineer for technical and corporate planning, Mohammed Azzam, told the Jordan Times.

The commercialisation of JEA, which has been discussed by experts, government officials and the JEA management over the last two years, aims at "increasing efficiency at the managerial and financial levels, and creating the atmosphere for the involvement of the private sector, which would relieve the government of the burden of heavy investments," Mr. Azzam said.

The conversion, which entails a strict commercialisation of all JEA operations under the ownership of the government for at least one year, was frozen two months ago, pending the finalisation of measures to ensure the pensionable rights of the employees.

Since 1987, when all independent institutions were compelled by a Cabinet decision to follow new regulations, the JEA staff has fallen under the umbrella of the government's Pension Fund and been granted the same treatment as all other employees working for the government.

With the commercialisation, JEA employees would be treated under the umbrella of the Social Security Corporation.

"It is not a matter of which (social security or Pension Fund arrangement) is better, but how to solve the problem of paying pensionable remuneration to all employees and revising the way of counting the years of pensionable service adopted by the Social Security Corporation," Mr. Azzam pointed out.

In 1994, a specially-appointed committee started working.

(Continued on page 9)

Share prices at AFM continue sliding

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prices plunged at the stock exchange for the sixth week running and trading remained stagnant amid a continuing crunch on liquidity and uncertain prospects for Middle East peace negotiations, brokers said Friday.

They said the situation could improve a little if investors saw signs of government moves to bring down interest rates on dinar deposits following a promise in April by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti that the Central Bank of Jordan would scale down yields on short- and medium-term treasury papers.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said turnover for the week ending Thursday was 3.5 million dinars, down from 3.9 million dinars in the previous week.

The official AFM share price index based on stocks of 60 major companies closed for the week at 143.61 points, down 0.39 points or 0.27 per cent from

Saturday's opening, the report said.

The report said 2.5 million shares changed hands under 3,170 deals concluded during the week, with the daily average trading at 900,000 shares in four days of trading (Monday was an official holiday), compared with 800,000 shares in five days of trading last week.

Stocks of 94 companies were involved in the week's business, with 35 of them closing with gains, 32 losing and 27 remaining unchanged.

Industrials accounted for 2.4 million dinars of the weekly turnover, followed by services sector firms with 560,000 dinars, commercial banks and financial institutions with 540,000 dinars and insurance companies with 10,000 dinars.

Sectoral indices showed that insurance firms went down by 0.86 per cent, services companies by 0.68 per cent, industrials by 0.33 per cent and banks and financial institutions by 0.14 per cent.

Pearl Consulting, an independent market watcher, put the overall decline in prices

at 0.56 per cent, saying its share price index for the organised market lost for the week at 84.02 points, down from 84.49 points.

Sectoral indices maintained by Pearl Consulting showed that banks and financial institutions gained 0.22 per cent while insurance slipped by 0.13 per cent, services firms by 0.78 per cent and industrials by 1.15 per cent.

A further sectoral split-up by Pearl showed that commercial banks lost 0.11 per cent and investment banks by 0.8 per cent while specialised banks gained 0.57 per cent and Islamic banks 1.66 per cent.

In the services sector, energy firms slipped by 1.02 per cent, tourism companies and hotels 1.26 per cent and entities in the education sector and others dropped by 0.2 per cent. Services companies in transportation gained 0.54 per cent and real estate firms 0.59 per cent.

In the industrial sector, mining companies slipped by 1.36 per cent, chemical and petroleum companies

0.14 per cent, firms in the supply and consumption segment 0.35 per cent, pharmaceuticals 3.34 per cent and engineering 0.71 per cent.

Among industrials, only textile companies and packing firms gained during the week, registering 1.14 per cent and 0.62 per cent respectively.

According to Pearl Consulting, commercial banks and financial institutions have slipped by 7.79 per cent since the beginning of the year, insurance firms by 2.43 per cent, services companies by 11.96 per cent and industrials by 17.07 per cent.

Pearl's overall index for the organised market showed a decline of 12.03 per cent since January.

Commenting on last

week's trading brokers said the decline resulted from uncertainties posed by the outcome of Israeli general elections and continued high interest rates. They said government promises to bring down the rates, coupled with institutional buying by state-guided agencies, had only propped up prices for two or three weeks.

In April, Mr. Kabariti promised that the central bank would gradually bring down the yields offered on short-term treasury bonds in dinars. He also instructed state-guided agencies such as the Social Security Corporation and the Jordan Investment Corporation to intervene in the market to "prop up

(Continued on page 9)

THE Daily Crossword by Sefton Boyars

ACROSS

- 1 Applaud
- 5 Attacks
- 10 Fall, in a way
- 14 Musician
- 15 Shankar
- 16 Site of Diamond Head
- 17 Actor Richard
- 18 Yellow color
- 19 Incite
- 20 Party game
- 22 Norse god
- 23 Bar legally
- 24 Inscribe
- 26 Brilliance
- 30 Former union president
- 34 Stead's sound
- 38 Cushion
- 39 Timber wolf
- 40 Capital of Guam
- 42 "Fatha" Hines
- 43 Action up
- 45 Quick retorts
- 47 Famed hostess
- 48 "Shrugged" (Rand novel)
- 49 Silence
- 51 Rental agreement
- 56 Soft drink
- 59 Analysis of a kind
- 63 City near Des Moines
- 64 Upright: pref.
- 65 "The midnight — of Paul..."
- 66 Little nipper
- 67 Willow
- 68 Sullanale
- 69 Pained exclamation
- 70 Physicist Enrico
- 71 Split

DOWN

- 1 Pancake
- 2 Nigerian capital
- 3 Nautical word
- 4 Horse or bean
- 5 Moieiy
- 6 Hebrew letter: var.
- 7 — Valley, CA
- 8 Shore bird
- 9 Doctrine
- 10 Items for some fences
- 11 Wood strip
- 12 Taft's state
- 13 Tabby's sound
- 21 Famed cartel
- 25 Greek letter
- 27 Extended family
- 28 Ship's record
- 29 Separated
- 31 Insipid
- 32 Front part
- 33 Pointed tools
- 34 Seafood item
- 35 Knowledge
- 36 Wading bird
- 37 Rapidly
- 38 Dad
- 41 Nothing
- 44 — Claire, WI
- 46 Olaf's capital
- 48 Mounded
- 50 Lampoon
- 52 Gool
- 53 One at —
- 54 Car
- 55 Revise
- 56 Shrewd
- 57 All: pref.
- 58 Bound
- 60 Roil
- 61 The ones there
- 62 Memento —

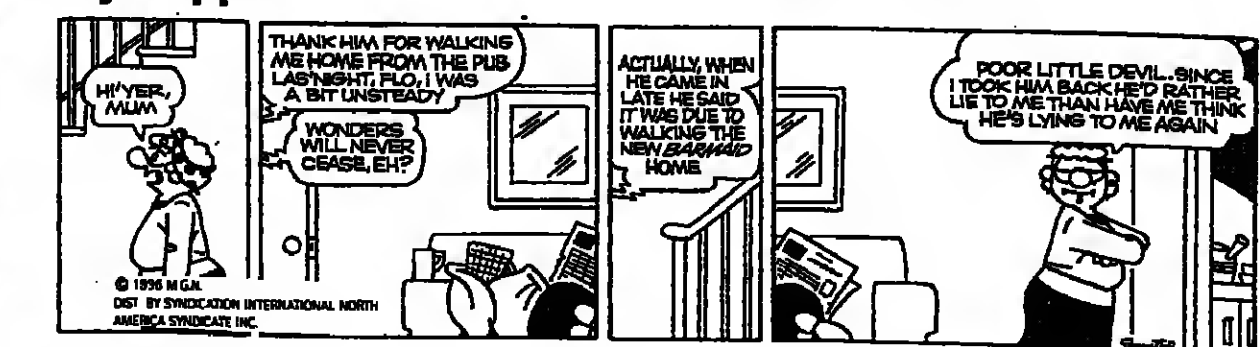
THE BETTER HALF By Glashergen



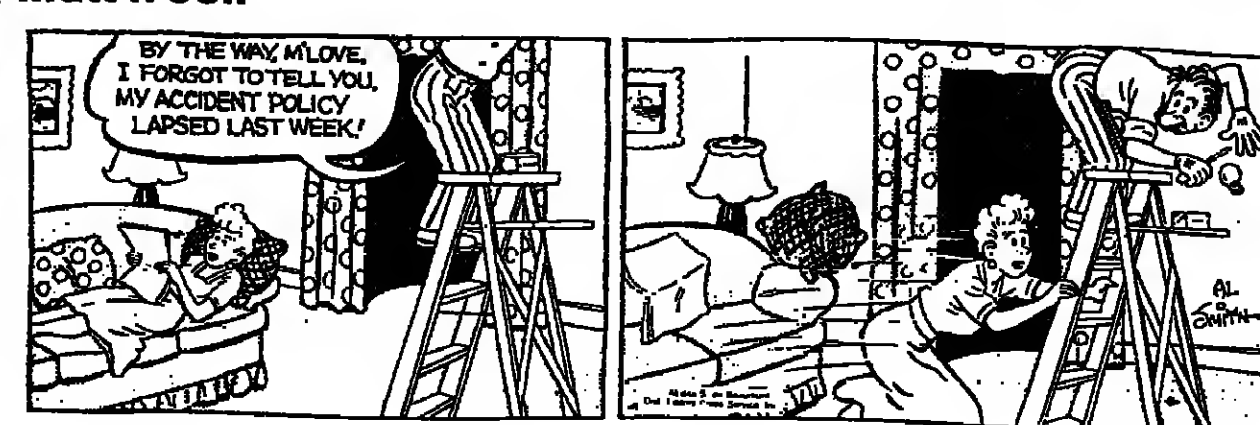
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 15, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Know what your true desires are and plan how best today to make them a reality. Tonight, study your progress and determine what will be the best course of action to pursue in order to obtain your success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Use care with some monetary matter early today and then you can handle career activities easily. A good friend needs help in handling some personal difficulty, so lend a hand and find some solution to his or her predicament.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make arrangements for that trip which can bring you greater success early today, then later this evening get into important business at hand which has been put aside for some time and which must be dealt with at this time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Handle Saturday duties playfully today and please those you have to deal with. Dine out this evening with your mate and you can have a romantic time which will not be forgotten for the days ahead if you are successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can become more efficient today in terms of your career activities and please those who count and are responsible for your success. Be more affectionate with your mate and he or she will reciprocate the gesture.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) The situation may be tense early today, however, later this evening all kinds of good things come your way. Seek out what you want most in your activities through the actions of a bigwig who can be of assistance.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Do whatever will make your environment more charming and functional, so that those who live under your roof will show great appreciation. Handle your career activities cheerfully and make the best of any tasks you are given.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't create a practical difficulty in the morning today, and then you can be with close friends for a good time later this evening. Later tonight, will be good for you to go out on the town with your mate for a romantic time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) In the morning today, you may have a disagreement with a fellow associate, however, later this evening a harmonious time can be enjoyed at home with your loved ones in some recreation which everyone will want to participate in.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Early today rid yourself of a secret anxiety, then get busy at marketing, shopping, visiting. Acquire information you need for the completion of a new project which has been assigned to you by a bigwig.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) First study your assets and liabilities well today, then set up a more workable budget for yourself and your loved ones which will make the days ahead more pleasant. Tonight you can go out with your loved ones for some fun.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The home and outside duties can be somewhat frustrating in the morning today, however, later this evening you can do whatever pleases you most. Later this evening will be the time for you to consult with some bigwig for advice.

Birthstone of June: Emerald — Citri

Euro 96

Couto sends
Turks packing

NOTTINGHAM (AFP) — Turkey became the second side to exit the European Championships after a goal from defender Fernando Couto gave Portugal a 1-0 win and virtually guaranteed their advance into the last eight here Friday.

Turkey join Romania on the early plane home but they can consider themselves unlucky after taking the fight to the Portuguese, who once again showed they lack a genuine goalscorer.

After missing a number of golden chances, it took a rare goal from Parma centreback Couto to finally silence the raucous noise of Turkey's 13,000 fanatical, hang-drumming supporters at the city ground.

Pele has tipped Portugal to go all the way to the final but unless one of their strikers hits a rich vein of form, it seems unlikely they will ever get the rewards merited by their fluid approach play.

Rank outsiders Turkey made a mockery of the pre-match odds after dominating the highly-fancied Portuguese for most of the first half.

Portugal will have to be careful in their last match against Croatia at the City ground on Wednesday. Paulinho Santos is already suspended for his second yellow card on the stroke of half-time, and Oceano, Ricardo Sa Pinto, Joao Pinto, Paulo Sousa, Luis Figo and Jose Tavares have all been booked.

Leading Euro 96 scorers

Pierluigi Casiraghi (Italy)	2
Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria)	2
Alan Shearer (England)	1
K. Turkylmaz (Switzerland)	1
Alfonso (Spain)	1
Andreas Moeller (Germany)	1
Christian Ziege (Germany)	1
Brian Laudrup (Denmark)	1
Sa Pinto (Portugal)	1
Christophe Dugarry (France)	1
Iliya Tsyimbalar (Russia)	1
Goran Vlaovic (Croatia)	1

Saturday's Euro 96 schedule on TV
England v Scotland 5 p.m. channel 2
Spain v France 6 p.m. channel 2

Romanians lodge appeal
over ref's costly blunder

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Furious Romanian officials are to lodge a protest with UEFA over Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen's 'no goal' decision that sent the team crashing out of Euro 96.

A top-level meeting amongst officials went long into Thursday night to decide what action to take over the St James's Park incident.

Mikkelsen's blunder left the players seething. Instead of perhaps reaching the quarter-finals they instead became the first team to be knocked out of the championship.

Even if they win their final game against Spain, and France lose their remaining two — which would leave the sides level on three points — Aime Jacquet's team would qualify after beating the Romanians at St James' Park Monday.

The incident happened in the 31st minute when Dorinel Munteanu let loose with his left-foot from 25 yards. The ball hit the crossbar of Bulgaria's Borislav Mihaylov and bounced down over the line but Mikkelsen missed it and waved play on.

The Romanian players immediately protested to Mikkelsen who instead of consulting his linesmen simply brushed the players away and told them to get on with the game.

Already a goal down to Hristo Stoichkov's lethal third minute strike, Romania desperately needed to equalise to get back into the match.

"It was definitely a goal," fumed Romanian defender Tibor Selymes. "I have watched it on television and the ball went over the line."

"But a goal is only a goal if the referee says it is, and that was not the case against Bulgaria."

Team-mate Ion Lupescu agreed: "I thought it was a goal. Bulgaria had two chances and scored from one of them, but that is the way the game goes sometimes."

But while his players remained philosophical about their exit, coach Anghel Iordanescu reacted angrily when asked about the incident.

"I refuse to make any comment about that," he stormed. "It is up to you (the media) to make up your own minds and write what you saw."

But despite the protest Romania will still be packing their bags early next week.

A UEFA official said that the score will stand, regardless if a mistake was made or not.

However the appeal almost certainly means the end of the 36-year-old Mikkelsen's Euro 96 tournament.

After the group matches, the number of referees are reduced and Mikkelsen, despite being a vastly experienced referee who was in the charge in the 1990 World Cup in Italy and the 1992 European Championship in Sweden, can expect to go home early.

Mikkelsen is the second Scandinavian referee to make a major blunder during Euro 96.

Sweden's Leif Sundall missed an obvious penalty in the Scotland-Holland match when Scottish midfielder John Collins robbed the Dutch of a goal in the opening minutes by knocking the ball off the line with his arm.

Sundall, like Mikkelsen, has almost certainly refereed his last Euro 96 match.



Paul Ince (left) and Paul Gascoigne (centre) celebrate scoring whilst Teddy Sheringham (2nd right) and Stuart Pearce (right) look on during England's training session at Bisham Abbey in preparation for their next game in the European Championships against Scotland at Wembley on Saturday (Reuters photo)

Points more vital than pride
in England-Scotland showdown

LONDON (R) — Far more is at stake than the settling of old scores when the ancient rivalry between England and Scotland is revived at Wembley after a seven-year gap on Saturday.

While both sets of fans want their team to win this match more than any other, the players will be far more concerned with picking up three points in their quest to advance from Group A of Euro 96 — especially as the Netherlands opened a three-point gap on both of them by beating Switzerland 2-0 on Thursday.

While the main objective is a victory, the fact that this game is being contested by so many club mates from both sides of the border will guarantee the match will be played with a passionate intensity setting it apart from all the others in the competition.

As England striker Teddy Sheringham said this week — just one of two dozen players to express the same sentiment — "we all know each other so well and have played with and against each other so often it is going to be more like a league game than an international."

Sheringham's own opposing club mate from Tottenham will be Colin Calderwood.

While the history of the fixture — the first international ever played — dates back to 1872, of far more immediate concern is the story of the last seven days.

Scotland, incongruously the "home" side because of the way the draw worked out and using be home dressing room, come to the game on a high after a battling performance in a 0-0 draw with the Dutch on Monday.

Their training camp at Stratford-On-Avon has been a haven of tranquillity in comparison to England's with coach Craig Brown and his players enjoying an excellent working relationship with the media.

Brown is keeping his tactics secret, but

has hinted he will take special precautions to deal with Paul Gascoigne who he rates as England's most influential player. That could mean Gascoigne's Glasgow Rangers teammate Stuart McCall is assigned to man-mark him.

Brown could also start with John Spencer, who replaced Scott Booth at half-time against the Netherlands, in attack in a bid to solve Scotland's worrying inability to score. And he may well give a starting berth to Billy McKinlay who came on after 56 minutes for Kevin Gallacher on Monday.

His only injury worries are slight ones concerning Stewart McKimmie, John Collins and Gary McAllister but he believes that the recent adverse publicity surrounding England will help boost the opposition.

"I would imagine Terry Venables will use that flack to inspire his players," he said, "I'd expect him to do that and it will be a big danger to us."

England, as is usual at major championships, have been vilified by one tabloid attack after another following their trip to China and Hong Kong, the damage done to the aircraft bringing them back from Asia and tales of players drinking after-hours in nightclubs.

Venables, who called the English press corps "traitors" on Tuesday, has turned his mind back to team matters. He was expected to recall David Platt to his starting line-up but he is still nursing a rib injury and remains doubtful. Jamie Redknapp is on standby.

Despite intense media pressure to drop Gascoigne, Venables is certain to keep Scotland's player of the year in his team. If he is on soog, more than any other player can unlock the Scottish defence and bring his country a victory they badly need against his adopted homeland.

Fans disprove predictions
of hooliganism

BIRMINGHAM (R) — Good-natured Dutch and Scottish fans have so far disproved predictions that Euro 96 would become a three-week orgy of soccer hooliganism.

Rival fans came together before, during and after the match between their two teams in exuberant but altogether friendly festivities which seemed to belong to a bygone age when football matches were not mere excuses for mindless hostilities.

The sight of orange-clad Dutch fans dressed in kilts chanting to Scottish supporters "we love you Scotland, we do" before the game had started was enough to make neutrals blink in disbelief.

The Scots responded in kind, singing along with the Dutch brass bands, dancing with rival fans and mingling amicably.

As the match itself, which finished 0-0, the fans' fixture ended in a highly honourable draw — and a victory for soccer as a sport which can still bring people together where goodwill exists.

Scotland manager Craig Brown expressed his delight with the way things had gone afterwards. "Scotland and Holland have played some great games in the past. Both sets of fans really get on well with each other," he said.

"It's always a great game to play in. The Scottish fans were great but, equally, so were the Dutch."

If the 20,000 or so Dutch supporters in Villa Park were bitter or disappointed by not winning as expected, it hardly showed as they went to Birmingham City centre for joyful celebrations involving a sizeable intake of alcohol.

But police had nothing but praise for the way both sets of supporters behaved and there were no reports of major problems.

The expected outbreak of hooliganism has not happened yet in Euro 96, though there is still an obvious risk of violence at crunch matches such as England vs Scotland and England vs Netherlands as well as at later games should Germany play the English or Dutch.

But if there is no tangible effect of supporters' excesses as yet, no-one should doubt the level of fanaticism with which some people follow their teams.

Brown said one Scottish fan had come up to him after Monday's match and told him: "I'm in trouble at home. I missed my son's wedding to come to this game."

Spain, France meet tonight

LEEDS (R) — Spain and France look set to give free rein to their attacking skills when they clash in Euro 96 Group B Saturday — a repeat of the 1984 final.

The Spanish, having scraped a 1-1 draw with Bulgaria, need all three points while France are likely to play more freely than when they beat Romania 1-0 in their opening match last weekend.

"It's in the second matches that teams' strengths are liberated," said France's coach Aime Jacquet.

"In their first game Spain played under great pressure and did not reach their true level. Against France we can expect to see a different Spain."

"We're going for the three points," said Spain's central defender Miguel Angel Nadal, who sits out the match completing a two-match suspension.

"We can't speculate with a draw, then a win against Romania, we must win."

France were also rather more cautious than expected against Romania, but the Spanish are wary of the

threat of striker Youri Djorkaeff.

Adenico Madrid midfielder Jose Luis Caminero said: "They are a well structured team, quite solid at the back. They have a similar playing style to Spain and they have a man like Djorkaeff with more inspiration and talent."

France's central defender Laurent Blanc said: "Neither side is interested in a draw, we're all going to want to take risks."

The last time Spain, winners in 1964, met France was in the 1984 final won 2-0 by Michel Platini's French side in Paris.

Both sides are unbeaten in about two years — France in 24 matches since Jacquet took charge after their failure to reach the 1994 World Cup finals.

Spain have gone 17 games unbeaten since falling to Italy in the World Cup quarter-finals in Boston.

Neither coach will name his side until just before kickoff, but France will probably be unchanged.

Vincent Guerin is suffering from back and leg pains,

with Reynald Pedros of Nantes standing by in case the Paris St Germain midfielder is not fit.

It is also unclear whether Jacquet will recall Jocelyn Angloma, the only player in the squad to have appeared in all 10 qualifying games, to the defence in place of Lilian Thuram.

Clemente has hinted at four changes to the Spanish side.

Having lost striker Juan Pizzi through suspension, Alfonso Perez, the substitute who equalised against Bulgaria, looks set to lead the attack.

Deportivo Coruna midfielder Donato, forward Jose Amavisca of Real Madrid and Valencia defender Jorge Otero also look set to play.

Brazilian-born Donato, a strong ball winner with a good middle distance shot, believes Spain should play a counter-attacking game.

"Their defence plays well forward and they press in the middle of the field so the ideal is to counter attack at speed," he said.



Ciriaco Siroza (left), Marc Hottinger (centre) and Marco Grassi of Switzerland show their disappointment after missing a scoring chance against the Netherlands during their European Soccer Championship match, June 13. The Netherlands won the match with the score of 2-0 (Reuters photo)

Holland victory revives flagging hopes

BIRMINGHAM (AFP) — Holland revived their flagging Euro 96 hopes with a 2-0 win over Switzerland here Thursday night to go top of Group A.

Second-half goals from Jordi Cruyff and Dennis Bergkamp did the damage.

Cruyff's goal came in the 66th minute after Swiss goalkeeper Marco Pascolo failed to contact solidly with a punch. The ball came straight to Cruyff whose left-footed shot left Pascolo no chance.

Thirteen minutes later Bergkamp, who had struggled throughout the first half with the Swiss offside trap, was set free on the counter attack with a clearance from Dutch goalkeeper Edwin Van Der Sar.

Outstripping the sole Swiss defender, the Arsenal star saw his first shot blocked by Pascolo but the rebound came straight back to him and this time he made no mistake.

It could have been 3-0 but for a brilliant off-the-line save by Swiss defender Stephane Henchoz who booked away a header from Cruyff after Pascolo was completely beaten.

More importantly it puts coach Gus Hiddink's side firmly in control of the group and Terry Venables' men must beat Scotland or have to beat the Dutch at Wembley next Tuesday to reach the last eight.

But Hiddink was quick to admit that the win was a long time coming.

"We had a bad start. The Swiss did very well. They had three men up front who are very strong physically and very good one against one," said Hiddink.

However Holland can consider themselves lucky to have 11 men on the field at the end of the game.

Defender Clarence Seedorf was booked after 14 minutes when he brought down Marco Grassi as Switzerland tried to launch a quick counter attack. Ten minutes later he did the same thing but this time Bulgarian referee Atanas Ouzounov kept the yellow card in his pocket.

It was a decision that angered Swiss coach Arthur Jorge, who had not doubt that Seedorf should have got his marching orders.

"I don't understand the referee," he complained afterwards.

However Dutch coach Gus Hiddink was not going to take the risk that his defender would not be so lucky the next time promptly pulled the Real Madrid player off and replaced him with Johan De Kock.

Switzerland were not so lucky.

Their striker Marco Grassi, who collected a yellow card in their opener against England last

Saturday, collected another late in the second-half and will now automatically miss the final match against Scotland next Tuesday.

Switzerland had a golden chance to take the lead in the 51st minute when a dazzling run by Grassi beat two Dutch defenders. He slipped the ball inch perfectly to Everton defender Marc Hottinger lurking in the penalty area.

Somewhat Hottinger managed to blast the ball high over the bar when it would have been easier to score.

Three minutes later, the Swiss attack had a second chance with the ball bobbling about in the Dutch penalty area. But no-one could get a clean enough shot to find a way through the milling bodies.

Meanwhile England coach Terry Venables tried to play down the importance of Holland's win as to the outcome of Group A and who will go through.

"The result makes no difference to our situation. In the end, it's up to us what we achieve," Venables said.

"It was a good game. For an hour, it could have gone either way."

"And the Swiss had a terrific chance of going in front. Who knows what would have happened if they had taken it?"

TODAY AT

PHILADELPHIA

Before Sunrise

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA

Bruce Willis in Die Hard 3

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"

Clint Eastwood & Meryl Streep

*** The Bridges of Madison County**

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD "2"

*** Mrs. Doubtfire** Show: 3:30

Under Siege

Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Amman Theatre & Cinema

Will shortly present Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in a play entitled

Five-Star Government

Starring comedians:

Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubeishat

Nabil & Bisham's Theatre

PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights at 8:30 p.m.

For reservation please call 625155 - 640155

Red Sox rally in 10th to beat Rangers

BOSTON (R) — John Valentin tied the game with a home run and Alex Delgado won it with a two-out single as the Boston Red Sox rallied in the 10th inning for an 8-7 victory over the Texas Rangers Thursday.

The Red Sox also rallied for two runs in the bottom of the ninth to send the game to extra innings, but Texas grabbed a 7-6 lead in the 10th on an RBI grounder by Ivan Rodriguez.

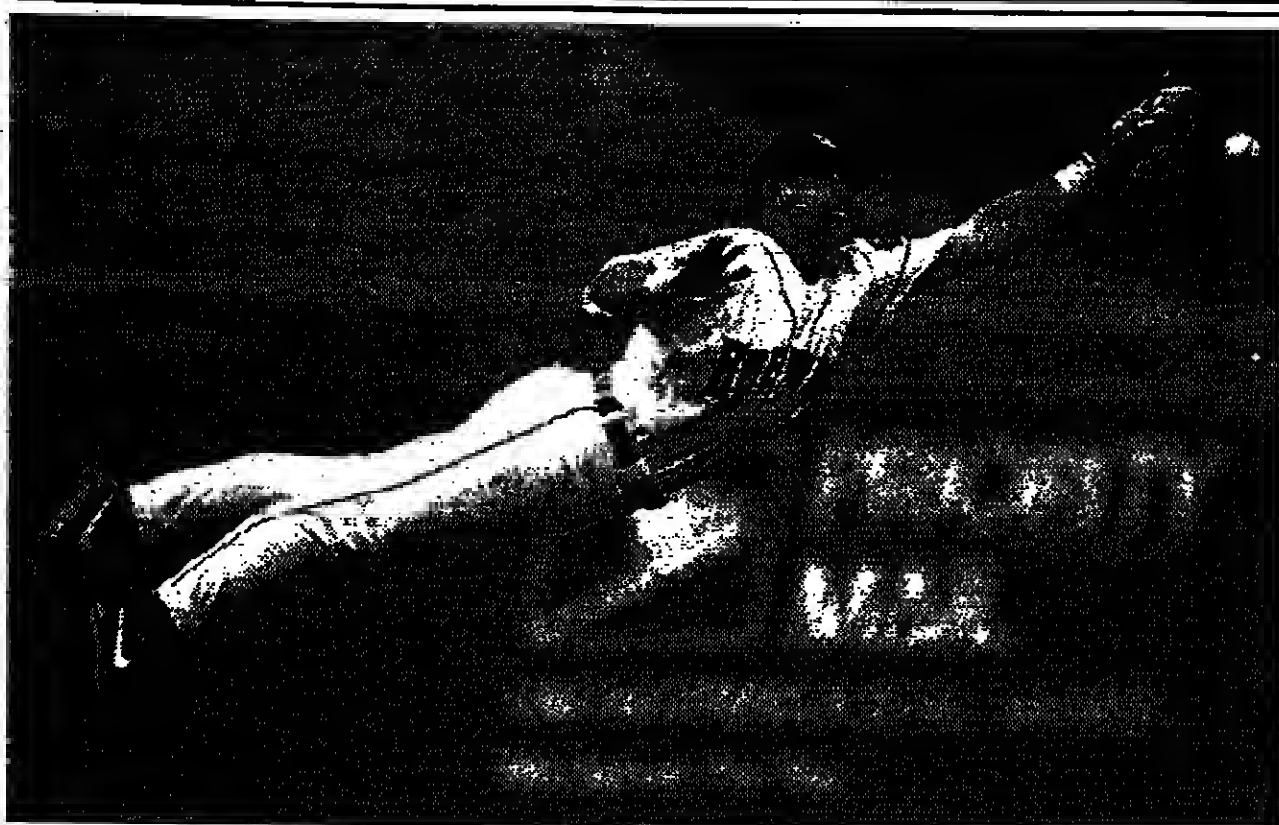
Mike Henneman (0-4), who squandered a two-run lead in the ninth, served up Valentin's seventh homer in the bottom of the 10th that lifted Boston into a 7-7 tie. All of Valentin's homers have tied the game or put the Red Sox ahead.

At California, Damian Easley hit a two-run homer and Chuck Finley allowed two runs over six innings as the California Angels won their fifth straight game with a 6-4 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Finley (8-4) allowed four hits, walked one and won for the third straight time against the Blue Jays.

In Kansas City, Doug Linton allowed one run in 6-2/3 innings and Craig Paquette homered and drove in four runs to lead the Kansas City Royals to a 10-2 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

Paquette collected three hits and has six homers in his last 15 games. Joe Randa also had three hits



Milwaukee Brewers third baseman Jeff Cirillo reaches for a line drive off the bat of Oakland Athletics Rafael Bournival with bases loaded in the second inning but fails to make the play. Shortstop Jose Valentin fielded the ball and threw to home plate to force the runner then to third base for a double play at County Stadium in Milwaukee June 13 (Reuters photo)

and scored three runs and Joe Vitiello had three RBI.

In Milwaukee, Mike Matheny's RBI double snapped a tie and highlighted a six-run fourth inning and John Jaha clubbed two solo homers as the Milwaukee Brewers pounded the Oakland Athletics 16-3.

It was the third time in the last five games Milwaukee has scored at least 10 runs in a game and the fourth time this season the Brewers have scored at least 15 runs in a game.

In New York, Orel Hershiser carried a shutout into the eighth inning in his second straight strong outing and Eddie Murray slogged a two-run homer and drove in three runs as the Cleveland Indians beat the New York Yankees 6-2.

Hershiser (6-4) gave up four hits and walked one with five strikeouts strikeouts.

Dodgers beat Braves

Rodger Cedeno's first major-league homer, a three-run shot, broke a seventh-inning tie and lifted the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 6-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Thursday.

In Pittsburgh, Devon White singled home two runs with two out in the ninth inning as the Florida Marlins came from behind to defeat the Pittsburgh Pirates 4-3.

White singled home Kurt Abbott in the top of the eighth to draw Florida within one and poked a

bases-loaded single into right field to drive in Joe Orsulak and Abbott, giving Florida the lead.

In San Francisco, Barry Bonds had four hits and broke the longest homerless drought of his career with a two-run shot in the eighth inning as the San Francisco Giants built a nine-run lead and hung on for a 12-8 victory over the Houston Astros.

In St. Louis, Robert Person pitched seven shutout innings in his first start of the season and Todd Hundley and Jeff Kent hit back-to-back homers in the seventh, giving the New York Mets their fifth win in six games, 2-1 over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Persoo (1-1) was recalled from triple-A Norfolk before

the game to replace the injured Paul Wilson.

In Chicago, Terry Shumpert's three-run homer in the bottom of the 14th inning — his first home run in nearly two years — lifted the Chicago Cubs to their fifth win in six games, 6-3 over the San Diego Padres.

At Colorado, John Vander Wal had three hits, including a homer and drove in three runs and Bryan Rekar allowed a run in eight innings in his return from the minors to pace the Colorado Rockies to a 4-1 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Normally a pinch-hitter, Vander Wal has been playing more as a regular since the injury to center field Larry Walker.

Supersonics save honour but face uphill battle

SEATTLE (AFP) — Chicago stumbled off an unscheduled detour on a stroll down coronation street, but the Seattle Supersonics have yet to show they have what it takes to swipe a championship.

Seattle's 107-86 victory in game four of the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals averted a possible sweep by the Bulls and forced game five Friday.

The triumph preserved the honour of a team whose spirit was questioned after opening-round upsets in the past two playoffs and a 3-1 semifinal lead over Utah this year that was nearly squandered when the Jazz forced a seventh game.

"We're over a mental barrier," Seattle's Frank Brickowski said.

"To get swept in the finals, that hangs with you a long time. You go back and think about it."

The rallying cry Thursday at Seattle's practice session was to avoid losing the crown at home.

"We still don't want to lose it here," Seattle's Detlef Schrempf said. "We want to take it back to Chicago and see what happens. If we put ourselves in that position, you never know."

No team has ever rallied to win the finals after trailing 3-0 or 3-1 and the Bulls have not lost four games in a row since 1990.

But no club in 45 years had averted a finals sweep after falling behind 3-0 until this year.

"I don't think anyone in our locker room has stopped believing we can win," Chicago coach George Karl said.

The Bulls know they want to close out the sonics before they build more confidence. They downplayed the defeat as one of their own making.

"We were awful. It happens from time to time," Chicago's Steve Kerr said. "It's nothing to be concerned with."

"It was like when you come home and you want to have sex and your wife doesn't," proclaimed Chicago's Dennis Rodman.

Seattle's David Wingate, who has been an intimidating physical defender against Jordan throughout the series, will join NBA defensive player of the year Gary Payton as the main men aimed at shutting down NBA scoring champion Michael Jordan.

"David did a great job defending Michael. He hit him a couple of times and it helped us," Payton said. "If

Michael gets comfortable catching the ball where he wants, he gets into a rhythm. You have to make him work and get him tired."

Wingate challenged Jordan, saying, "I kind of want Michael to take it to the rim." Catching himself, he added, "Oooh, I wish I hadn't said that."

Those are the sorts of words Jordan reminds opponents about as he zips past on a big night. But Jordan kept a calm outward demeanor despite three arguments with referees in game four.

"In these pressure situations, you have to maintain a certain poise and a certain relaxed attitude," Jordan said.

Seattle is anything but relaxed.

The only disruptions for Seattle have come because Karl benched Ervin Johnson and Vincent Askew, both of whom had been unhappy with reduced playing time. Askew was fined \$10,000 for missing a practice and interview session. Johnson complained but has mellowed.

Seles enters Eastbourne tournament

STAMFORD, Connecticut (R) — Monica Seles has officially entered nextweek's women's grass court tournament in Eastbourne, England, the women's tour has announced.

It will be her first appearance at the event which has been running for more than 20 years. Seles joins an elite field which includes nine of the top 15 in the world including Steffi Graf, Conchita Martinez, Jana Novotna, Chanda Rubin, Lindsay Davenport, Mary Joe Fernandez, Kimiko Date and Mary Pierce.

Her last performance on grass was at Wimbledon four years ago when she reached the final against Graf after having beaten nine-times champion Martina Navratilova in three sets.

This is Seles' eighth tournament since her comeback at the Canadian Open in Toronto last August after the knife attack on her during a tournament in Hamburg in 1993. Despite a shoulder injury that has caused her to miss some events this year, she has won two titles including her ninth Grand Slam crown at the Australian Open, and has 17-2 win-loss record for the year.

Becker reaches Queen's quarters

LONDON (AFP) — Top seeded duo Thomas Muster and Boris Becker both reached the quarter-finals of the Queen's Club tennis tournament in London Thursday.

Each of the two achievements. Second-seeded Becker, 28, had a comfortable victory over American Jonathan Stark 6-4, 6-2 to bring up his century of grasscourt wins while top-seeded Muster's 6-2, 6-4 victory over the Russian Andrei Olhovskiy brought the world No.2 a second success in the same grass court tournament for the first time.

"I stopped counting after the first couple of wins and only found out yesterday I was so near 100," said Becker. "It was a pretty special day for me."

Becker's career exploded at Queen's 11 years ago when he captured the title and then went on to win Wimbledon.

"It all started for me here so it was great to reach 100 at the same place," added Becker, the first player to record 100 wins on grass since John McEnroe seven years ago.

Becker's recent resurgence brought a sixth career grand slam in the Australian Open this year. Now the triple Queen's Club champion believes he is way ahead of schedule in his Wimbledon preparation. Becker's achievement seems certain to be

matched by Stefan Edberg before he retires in November.

The London-based Edberg, 30, reached his ninth Stella final in 1995.

court victory over Goran Ivanisevic, who was hampered by a knee injury.

Edberg, 30, reached his ninth Stella final in 1995.

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Russia agrees to posting of NATO officer in Moscow

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Russia agreed Friday to allow the posting of a top NATO officer with its general staff in Moscow as part of a reciprocal effort to create deeper and broader ties with the Atlantic alliance, a U.S. senior official said.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, in a meeting here with NATO's 16 defense ministers, reaffirmed Russia's opposition to NATO enlargement but made clear Moscow was prepared to go forward with cooperation, the official said.

Russia is ready for "deeper and closer" contacts with the North Atlantic alliance, Gen. Grachev said in a brief statement after the meeting at NATO Headquarters.

"From the speeches of the NATO secretary general and all the ministers of defense, I have come to the conclusion that there is the aspiration for deeper and closer contacts," Gen. Grachev said.

"Russia is ready for that. In my speech I suggested a number of proposals of how to make our cooperation deeper and broader," he said without detailing them.

Gen. Grachev accepted a NATO proposal Thursday to make permanent the presence of a Russian liaison mission in the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers

Europe (SHAPE), and suggested that Russian liaison officers be placed in other NATO commands in Europe, NATO and U.S. officials said.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry countered by proposing that the Russians reciprocate by accepting a NATO liaison officer at its general staff in Moscow, a NATO official said.

"Minister Grachev agreed to host and welcome a NATO officer in Russia," said Ashton Carter, assistant secretary of defense for international security policy.

He said the exchange was "not a proposal but an agreed concept."

The details of when would go where and when would be worked out by NATO Supreme Commander U.S. General George Joulwan and the Russians in the coming days, he said.

Despite proposing to institutionalise Russia's military relationship with NATO, Gen. Grachev held to a hard line on NATO's plans to admit new members from among the former east bloc countries now in the partnership for peace.

Gen. Grachev, whose appearance here comes just two days before presidential elections in Russia, warned that enlargement of the alliance would create "new

divisions and create deterioration in the European security environment."

A NATO official said in his meeting with the ministers, he restated Russia's fear that NATO enlargement would lead to a "quantum leap in NATO power and bring that power closer to its borders," said the official, speaking on condition he not be identified.

However, Gen. Grachev also listed a number of areas where Russia was prepared to cooperate with NATO, the official said.

Joint weapons development, disarmament and arms control, ballistic missile defences, non-proliferation, counter-terrorism and drug trafficking were among the areas where he thought cooperation was possible, the official said.

Gen. Grachev also urged dialogue to prevent any destabilising "surprises" in development of new military technologies.

Gen. Grachev's presentation to the NATO ministers followed up on a meeting June 3 in Berlin between NATO foreign ministers and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who suggested Moscow did not oppose enlargement per se but the installation of allied military infrastructure near its border.



RUSSIAN ELECTIONS: A Russian electoral official prepares ballot papers on Friday at a military base's cultural centre where both military and civilians will cast their votes on Sunday in Russia's Presidential election. The result of the election is expected to be a closely run thing between President Boris Yeltsin and his main rival, Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov (Reuters photo)

Srouf reaffirms Jordan's policies, quest for peace in talks with French parliamentarians

PARIS (Petra) — The Jordanian parliamentary delegation headed by Lower House Speaker Saad Hayel Srouf on Thursday met with French Senate members and discussed bilateral relations particularly in parliamentary affairs.

Mr. Srouf briefed the French senators on Jordan's efforts to establish peace in the region, noting in this regard the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which has been endorsed by the Parliament after a thorough and in-depth discussion.

Mr. Srouf stressed Jordan's commitment to establish a just and lasting comprehensive peace in the region. The two delegations discussed the future of the peace process in light of results of the Israeli elections which brought to power the right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

The head of the French Senate said the statements made by the newly-elected prime minister during his election campaign come within the context of election campaigning and might not reflect a genuine political strategy towards the peace process. He

called for not pre-judging the new Israeli government, saying that things were not clear yet.

Mr. Srouf noted Jordan's efforts to honour its commitments, develop its economy and build development structures capable of correcting certain imbalances, particularly in relation to poverty, unemployment and living conditions. He cited Jordan's foreign debt as an obstacle to developing the economy, pointing out that Jordan relies heavily on the support provided by its friends, including France, to imple-

ment development projects.

Mr. Srouf reviewed the newly enacted legislation to encourage investment in Jordan, saying that the laws provided a proper climate for attracting foreign investments.

The meeting was attended by Jordan Ambassador in Paris Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf and the French Ambassador in Amman Bernard Bajole.

Also on Thursday Mr. Srouf met with the French minister of parliamentary affairs and exchanged with

(Continued on page 7)

Turkey frustrated with Arab reaction to Israeli accord

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey is becoming increasingly exasperated with hostile Arab reaction to a military cooperation accord signed four months ago with Israel, singling out Syria for particular criticism.

Turkish officials said the government was irritated by the reaction of several Arab countries, including Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, to its Feb. 23 accord with Israel, which involves, among other things, joint air force training and widespread defence cooperation.

"Frankly we are angry," one Turkish official, who asked not to be named, told AFP. "It is out of the question to revise the accord."

"We have made clear on several occasions that it is not a question of an accord against Arab countries, nor of a military alliance with Israel but a cooperation accord involving training," the source said.

"We have said that aircraft will be equipped neither with weapons nor with electronic surveillance systems, but they don't want to understand," she added.

The Turkey-Israeli military cooperation agreement provides for joint naval and air force training, technology sharing, cooperation between the Israeli and Turkish defence industries and exchanges of personnel.

The deal would reportedly permit Israeli warplanes to use Turkish air space for

manoeuvres and last week, Turkish air force pilots flew prototype Israeli warplanes to test a new radar system slated to equip Ankara's fleet of U.S.-made fighter jets.

Iraq and Iran have also joined in the chorus of disapproval at the accord with Israel, seeing the cooperation as a military alliance targeting the Arab and Islamic world. Last Saturday, the three-power summit between Syrian, Egyptian and Saudi leaders in Damascus urged Turkey to reconsider the pact, to maintain the "relations of good neighbourliness" in the region.

But the appeal caused Ankara great irritation, coming as it did from the capital of a state which Turkey accuses of supporting terrorism. Turkey's own public enemy number one, Abdullah Ocalan, head of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party, often resides in Damascus, sowing Turkey-Syrian relations.

"We find it hard to accept that three heads of state can call for relations of good neighbourliness a few kilometres from the residence of a known terrorist leader," a diplomatic source told AFP.

"As far as Syria is concerned, it should know it should stop its support for terrorism if it wants good relations with Turkey," the source said. "We know very well that Ocalan is living in Syria and we have requested his extradition on many occasions."

Mubarak abolishes penalties on journalists

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak has recommended abolishing stiff penalties for defamation and libel that Egyptian journalists had called an attempt to muzzle their criticism.

The decision, which still must be approved by parliament, would largely end a year-long fight between the government and journalists over a law that dramatically increased fines and sentences. It was a victory for journalists who had nicknamed the legislation "the law of assassination of freedom of the press."

"Most of our demands have been met, 90 per cent," said Ibrahim Nafea, head of the Egyptian Journalists' Union and editor-in-chief of Cairo's leading Al-Ahram newspaper. "We tried our best."

He said negotiations would continue with the government on clauses journalists still objected to, but he did not give details.

Issued a year ago, the law decreed prison sentences of up to five years and fines to up to \$5,880 for journalists convicted of libel or slandering state officials and institutions. The old punishment had been three months in jail and a fine of \$15.

U.S. urges PNA to treat Sarraj fairly

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. administration has urged the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to treat jailed Palestinian human rights campaigner Iyad Sarraj fairly.

"We simply stated a broad concern that he be treated fairly and humanely," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

"We've also stressed to the Palestinian National Authority that it must live up to international standards of the rule of law and of human rights."

A Palestinian military tribunal Thursday extended for 15 days Dr. Sarraj's detention alleging he assaulted a policeman in jail.

A civilian court had ruled that evidence on a separate drug charge was insufficient to warrant preventive detention and ordered Dr. Sarraj released on bail, but in vain.

Dr. Sarraj, 53, who heads the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' rights, denied both charges and said he was arrested because of a letter he sent to Palestinian leader Yasser

Arafat, in which he accused the PNA of corruption and nepotism.

Dr. Sarraj, a leading critic of Mr. Arafat, said he was mistreated during his four days in jail and felt "terrible."

Looking pale and distressed, Dr. Sarraj spoke to reporters as policemen armed with assault rifles pushed him forward on a brief walk from a prison van to the Gaza City magistrate's court.

Dr. Sarraj's lawyer, Raja Saurani, said both charges apparently were designed to silence his client, who has characterised Mr. Arafat's rule as corrupt and autocratic.

"It sounds very clear that other circumstances pushed for these two charges," said Mr. Saurani. "It makes me feel really sad and bad."

Lawyers in Mr. Saurani's office have said the drugs, 95 grammes of hashish, were apparently planted during a police raid of Dr. Sarraj's office on Monday. In a note smuggled out of prison, Dr. Sarraj said he feared he was being framed on a false drug charge.

White House hails Iran investors sanctions bill

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House hailed a new bill Friday that would impose U.S. sanctions against foreign businesses investing in Iranian oil, and indicated that President Bill Clinton could sign it soon.

"We support it," spokesman Michael McCurry said after a House of Representatives committee approved the bill by voice vote Thursday.

If approved by the full Congress and signed by Mr. Clinton, the bill would become the second new U.S. law this year aimed at punishing companies that do business with what Washington considers to be rogue nations.

On March 12, Mr. Clinton enacted the Helms-Burton law allowing former owners of land expropriated by the Fidel Castro government to sue foreign companies that have since bought their land from the Cuban government.

As with the case of the Helms-Burton law, named after its two proponents, the bill targeting Iranian oil investors will likely spark strong protests from U.S. allies.

"The general thrust of our policy is that we have to do what we can to isolate a rogue regime like Iran which shows no evidence at all of moderating its behaviour contrary to those who suggest that a critical dialogue could moderate its behaviour," Mr. McCurry said.

Congressional sources expected the bill to be approved by the full House of Representatives as early as Monday, with Senate passage coming soon after President Clinton would then sign the bill into law, according to the White House officials.

Bosnian Serbs refuse to hand over Karadzic

FLORENCE (R) — A senior Bosnian Serb on Friday dismissed demands for the arrest of indicted war criminal "hysteria" and said hardline leader Radovan Karadzic may take part in Bosnia's planned elections.

The prime minister of the Bosnian Serbs, Gojko Kljickovic, spoke to reporters during a two-day ministerial review conference in Florence which is expected to recommend calling Bosnia's first post-war elections by Sept. 14.

His defiant words were in sharp contrast with the assessment shared by virtually all conference participants that removing Mr. Karadzic and his military chief General Ratko Mladic from public life was fundamental for free and fair elections in Bosnia.

"According to our laws nobody can be extradited," Mr. Kljickovic told reporters. "The same applies to President Karadzic and General Mladic. Also, our government did not accept any such obligation in Dayton."

Mr. Kljickovic said Mr. Karadzic, indicted with Gen. Mladic by the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague, may even run for the presidency of Republika Srpska, the Bosnian Serb entity, at future elections.

"(Karadzic may take part) in any future elections, including the forthcoming ones, but he will decide for himself whether to run or not," Mr. Kljickovic said.

A Karadzic candidacy would be in clear breach of the Dayton peace pact which ended the 43-month war last November. "There is no way he can do that," U.S. envoy Robert Frowick, head of the international mission organising polls in Bosnia, told reporters. "Those indicted for war crimes are disbarred from public office."

The international community says the presence of Mr. Karadzic in public life is poisoning the political atmosphere in all of Bosnia, where the Septem-

ber elections are meant to forge common institutions for Serbs, Muslims and Croats.

Chief mediator Carl Bildt and the president of the Hague tribunal, Antonio Cassese, both repeated demands at the conference for the removal of Mr. Karadzic and Gen. Mladic.

The two, held responsible for atrocities in a brutal war that claimed thousands of lives, have been clinging to their positions.

Mr. Kljickovic said that Gen. Mladic was still carrying out his duties as the commander of the Bosnian Serb army and that he talked with him on the telephone "every morning."

Mr. Karadzic has adopted a lower public profile but is engaged in the "internal reorganisation" of the ruling Bosnian Serb SDS party and its preparations for the elections, he added.

Mr. Kljickovic said his government was not happy with the Hague tribunal's work, branding it a political, not judicial, body.

"So far we have not got the impression that the tribunal is working in accordance with the rules of law. It remains a political institution," he said.

"In the course of today's discussion, our delegation will give a reply to the hysteria of Mr. Cassese."

Mr. Cassese called on the international community to exert more pressure to bring major war crime suspects to trial.

He suggested that if the NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia could not or would not arrest Mr. Karadzic and Gen. Mladic, the Bosnian Serbs and their patrons in rump Yugoslavia should be hit with partial economic and sporting sanctions.

Mr. Kljickovic said he was sure that IFOR would not attempt to arrest Mr. Karadzic and Gen. Mladic.

"They are aware of what such an adventure would entail, because the two of them are defended not only by the army and the police but by the people as well," he said.

8 COLUMN

'Flying Doctors' help with long-range diagnosis

LONDON (R) — A British fan of The Flying Doctors television series recognised the symptoms of his own rare but undiagnosed disease when watching the Australian soap opera at home. Radio engineer Rodney Haverson, 52, had suffered for eight years from a condition that baffled his doctors and left him in a wheelchair until he saw an episode that saved his life. "The handsome hero Dr. Standish has an old flame visiting — a jazz singer who is breathless and tired. Being a brilliant high-flying doctor, he is the only one to spot this rare illness and cure her," he told reporters. "As I watched, I was ticking off her symptoms and thinking 'yep, I've got that, and that, and that.' By the end of the show I thought there was just a chance this could be the problem." Mr. Haverson told his doctor who ordered blood tests. They confirmed he was suffering from myasthenia gravis, a rare nervous disease. The diagnosis saved him. When he was admitted to hospital two weeks later suffering paralysis of the lungs, doctors were able to treat him with the right drugs and his condition has now stabilised.

China toilets leak 16 million tonnes of water daily

BEIJING (R) — More than 16 million tonnes of precious water goes down the drain each day in China from thousands of leaking, poorly made toilets, the economic information daily said. Most of the leaks, which add up to losses of 500 million tonnes a year, are a result of poor construction and shoddy materials, it said. "Some irresponsible factory owners use rather poor materials and crude models to manufacture their products," the newspaper said. In addition, most users were not bothered about the waste because water is cheap in China, it added.

50-year-old seeks to be Hong Kong beauty queen

HONG KONG (R) — A chubby 50-year-old woman has put in a bid to become Hong Kong's next beauty queen, a newspaper reported. According to Asia Television Ltd, which organises the annual beauty contest, the woman entrant was slightly overweight but very charming, the Sing Tao Daily said. The contestant was not named. The television company has allowed women of all age groups to enter the contest since last year to attract more contestants. A 40-year-old made herself famous by entering last time, although she failed to win.

History, streakers at Lord's as women let into pavilion

LONDON (R) — History has been made at Lord's with women allowed to watch cricket from the pavilion for the first time in the ground's existence stretching back well over 200 years. The occasion was the first of three one-day internationals between the England and New Zealand women's teams which the visitors won by eight wickets with 16.5 overs to spare. The spectators in the pavilion were also granted a perfect view of two male streakers who tried to enliven proceedings. Officials have not yet decided whether the experiment of allowing women into the pavilion will be repeated for men's cricket matches.